Palace slams US court order on $683-M Marcos loot

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hollywood, NBA glitz to spice up Bush visit

SIGURADONG PANALO NA SI GLORIA!

By Carlito Pablo

IF PLANS materialize, the coming visit of United States President George W. Bush promises to be the biggest show in town. Manila is trying to add Hollywood glitz and

HOLLYWOOD/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

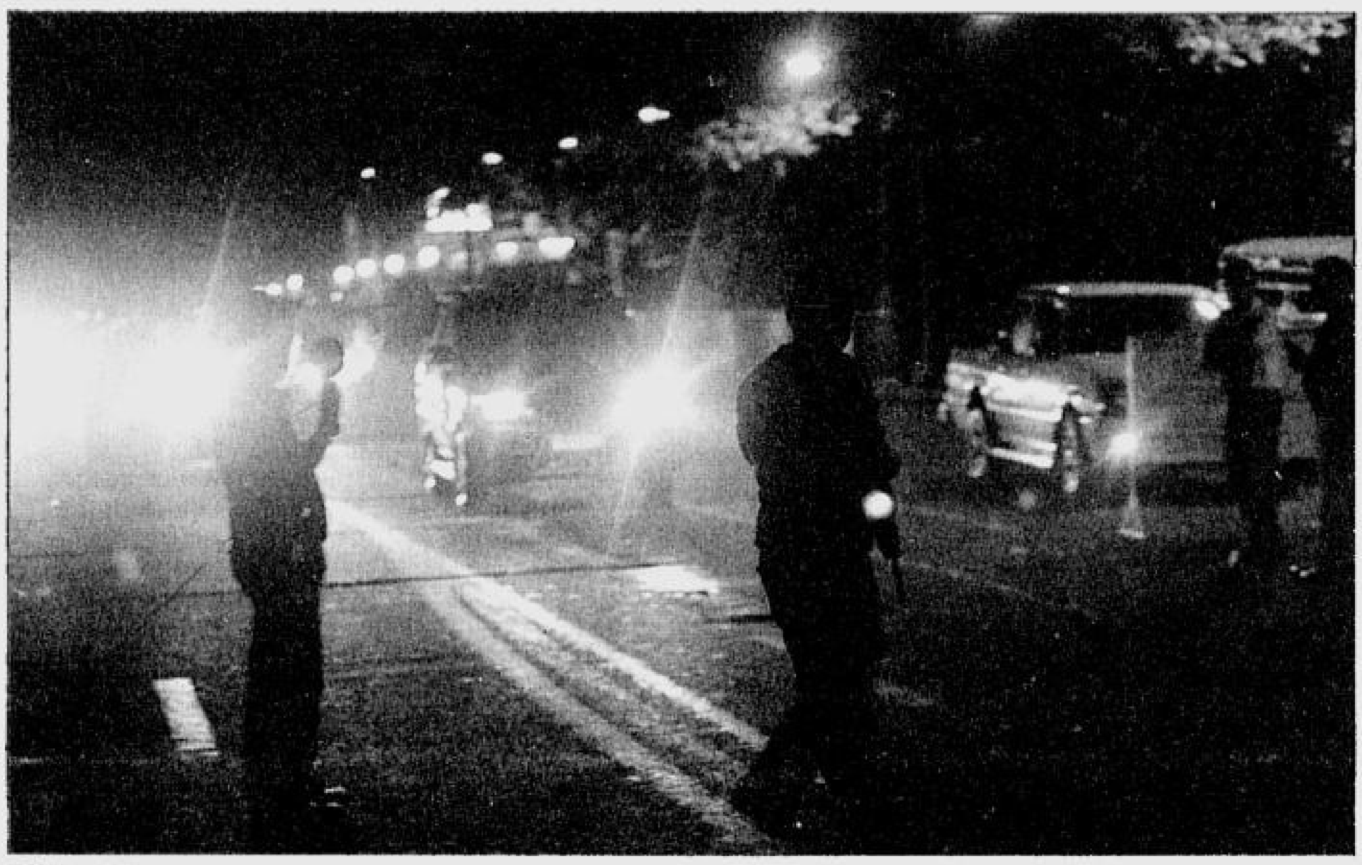
- **New coup talk pushes peso past 55 to $1**
  BUSINESS /B1
- **Luli to media: Lay off**
  NEWS/A2
- **Medicine prices cut by 50%**
  NEWS/A2

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, September 6, 2003 ★★ 64 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 270 P15

GMA on plots: Empty rumors

But her trip to US, ME, Europe may be shortened



AMID swirling rumors of another destabilization plot, policemen check vehicles coming from the North Expressway along Bonifacio Avenue in Dimasalang, Manila.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRESIDENT yesterday dismissed an alleged conspiracy to destabilize her administration as "an empty shell of rumors." But Malacañang mixed its signals when it also announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo was cutting short her 11-day overseas trip scheduled for later this month.

A day after security officials said they had foiled fresh attempts to recruit military officers to take part in an attempt to topple her, Ms Macapagal told residents of Parola Compound in Tondo: "The threat is beaten, and no amount of media play can make it rise again."

She also said: "The conspiracy is still there, driven by raw ambitions of power of persons who want to evade justice."

Malacañang later issued a statement in her name, where she was quoted as saying: "Whoever thinks our country is a political risk fails to read the basic factors of stability—effective leadership, sound policy directions and an enterprising and resilient people."

But in a Palace briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President's trip to the United States, the Middle East and Europe might be shortened because Ms Macapagal feels that the country was facing pressing prob-

GMA/A18

WOOING TONDO EDWIN BACASMAS
President Macapagal hugs Lucy Kim Santos, one of the beneficiaries of the government's housing program in Parola, Tondo, who ran up the stage when her name was called. *(Story on Page A4.)*

Gov't warns Copa; Saycon leaves for US

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

THE ADMINISTRATION is monitoring the activities of the Council on Philippine Affairs in the wake of reported destabilization efforts against the government, the Cabinet secretary in charge of the country's police forces said yesterday.

Interior and Local Governments Secretary Jose Lina said the government would not hesitate to apply the "full force of the law" in case groups such as Copa "crossed the line."

Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon left for the United States early on Thursday morning, but Copa chair Billy Esposo said the controversial Saycon's departure had nothing to do with the reported government crackdown or with any political issue.

He said Saycon, a diabetic, would instead undergo "re-calibration of insulin levels" in a New Jersey hospital.

GOV'T/A18

Justice officials deny shielding former boss

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE officials yesterday said they were not shielding former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez from allegations that he had laundered $2 million in Swiss banks.

According to Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez, the accusation of Sen. Serge Osmeña III that she is blocking the Swiss investigation of the case involving her former boss is not true.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong also came to Gutierrez's defense, saying she was "misunderstood" and her words "taken out of context." He added that, unlike the Office of the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice could not conduct an inquiry into the matter without a formal complaint filed against Perez before the DOJ.

JUSTICE/ A6

Alex Carlos surfaces, tags Allan Dy

By Volt Contreras

THE MAN who is being accused of egging on Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay to go public with his stories against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is pointing an accusatory finger at someone else.

Alex Carlos said it was Allan Dy, a businessman, who was insistent on bringing Mahusay to the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

He said Mahusay also asked him to accompany him (Mahusay) in the meeting with Lacson's people.

After several attempts by the INQUIRER for an interview, Carlos finally acceded to the request yesterday in a Quezon City restaurant.

The 44-year-old businessman, however, refused to be photographed, even just his silhouette. Carlos, who was visibly distraught, said he feared for his safety and that he might easily be identified in a photograph published in a newspaper. But he assured the INQUIRER that he was going to appear in the next Senate hearing.

ALEX/ A8

AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

ANTIRIOT police chase away militants protesting alleged corruption in the Macapagal administration outside the Philippine Stock Exchange building on Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

Bishop slams 'grandstanding' politicos, 'laughingstock' Senate

By Martin P. Marfil

A CATHOLIC bishop yesterday lashed out at "grandstanding" politicians and said the Senate had become a "laughingstock," investigating everything except cases involving its own members.

In a speech before a national assembly of the Catholic group Kairos, Bishop Antonio Tobias, concurrent apostolic administrator of Novaliches, also noted the crises besetting the Church and raised the need to renew the Christian movement in the country and push for the formation of a true "Church of the poor."

Kairos (literally "now is the opportune time") is a movement that seeks people who want to dedicate themselves to the renewed integral evangelization for building the Church of the poor in the Philippines. It was formed during the Jubilee Year 2000.

In an apparent reference to the controversy sparked by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's "Jose Pidal" exposé on President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Tobias also spoke about politicians trying to create intrigue to project themselves instead of working for the

BISHOP/ A8

'Poison in air': Politicians seek ceasefire

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING there was "poison in the air," administration and opposition leaders yesterday appealed for a "ceasefire" in political bickering. This would pave the way for the holding of a political summit, they said.

But opposition Sen. John Osmeña, who represented Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto, made it clear that the "poisoning of the air" was not coming from the opposition alone but from the administration side as well.

"So the ceasefire must be mutual, it should be on both sides," Osmeña told reporters.

The leaders, including Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia, also expressed "unqualified support" for the Constitution and duly constituted authorities.

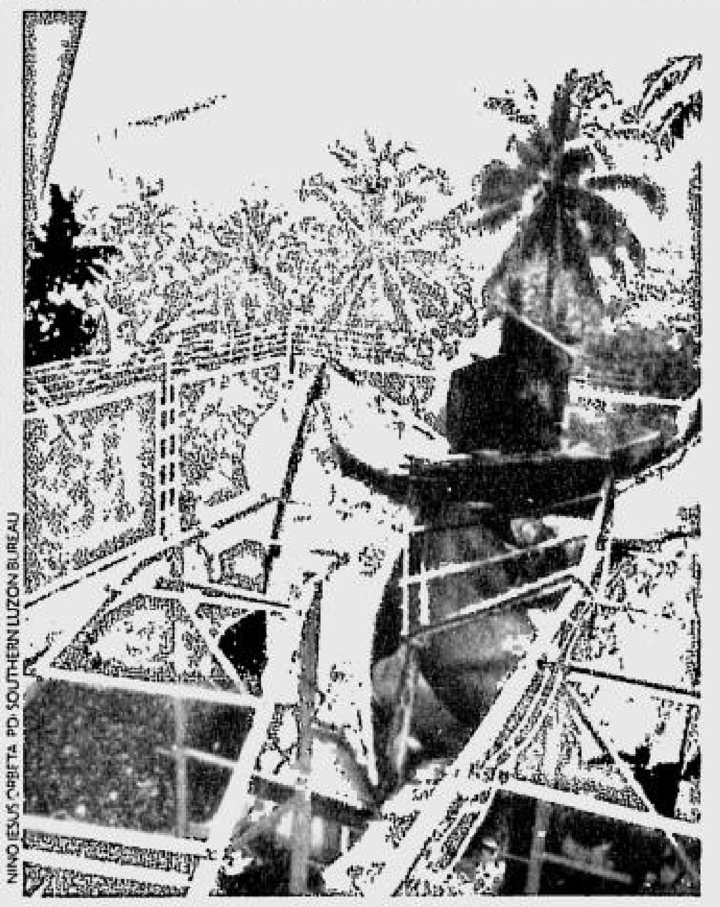
The small group met yesterday at the Manila Hotel to discuss the holding of the political summit, which is aimed at defusing the political tension. The political leaders have yet to decide on the date of the summit, however, only saying that a smaller working group would work on the details.

In a news briefing, Drilon announced that the leaders agreed that the political summit would have a "broad but manageable" participation from sectors of society and would work for honest, open and peaceful elections in May next year and for changes in the Constitution, among others.

De Venecia used the language of peace negotiations to describe the process leading up to the political summit.

"We must first move in to a ceasefire and a political truce before going for a full scale negotiation of a peace agreement," he

POISON/ A8



NINO JESUS ORBETA PD SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MUTE WITNESS. Communist rebels destroy Globe telecommunications relay station near Guinobatan, Albay. In background is Mayon Volcano. *(Story in Across, A17)*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

'JUDICIAL HERESY'

US court order on Marcos loot hit

By Cynthia D. Balana, Philip C. Tubeza, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Michael Lim Ubac, Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday slammed a US court order stopping the transfer to the Philippine government of $683 million Marcos deposits in Swiss banks which the Supreme Court earlier forfeited in favor of the government.

"Foreign courts cannot overturn our own Supreme Court, particularly on the issue of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth," the President said, invoking the principle of sovereignty. "It is important to stress this principle of sovereignty as the supreme welfare of our people is at stake in this issue," she said.

In his Sept. 2 order, Hawaii District Court Judge Manuel Real said banks would be violating a freeze order on the transfer of any Marcos assets that his court issued after the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was toppled in 1986.

"To invoke a foreign court's decision to enforce Philippine policy or jurisdiction is absurd and a travesty of justice itself," Ms Macapagal stressed.

Real's order contradicts a Supreme Court decision in July to transfer the money to the government.

The order is a result of a 1990s ruling by the US court awarding nearly $2 billion in damages against the Marcos estate over a class action suit filed by 9,539 human rights victims of the Marcos regime.

Real said he was informed that some of the funds would soon be moved from Singapore, where they had been invested by the Philippine National Bank, to the Philippines. In 1998, Switzerland had transferred the bulk of the Marcos assets from Swiss banks into an escrow account at PNB.

However, the former president's widow, Imelda Marcos, welcomed the US court order.

In a statement, Ms Marcos said: "It is ironic that it took a court from a foreign land, in this case a US court, to cite the lack of due process in the Philippines."

MACAPAGAL: Travesty of justice

But officials, legislators and human rights groups immediately criticized the US court order.

"We are not an American colony," the government's chief lawyer Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said no foreign court could overturn the landmark ruling of the SC.

"The Supreme Court of the Philippines is the legal judicial personality of the sovereign Filipino nation. The Supreme Court of the Philippines should be respected by courts of other countries," Datumanong said.

Not even the US Supreme Court can put (the SC) under its jurisdiction, he said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government believes the Marcoses and the lawyers of a group of claimants had a hand in the US court order.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza alleged that there is collusion between the Marcoses and US lawyer Robert Swift to prevent the transfer of the funds to the Philippine government.

"Obviously (Judge Manuel) Real will not issue this kind of order without Robert Swift asking for it," he told reporters yesterday. "There are really parties trying to stop the Filipino people from getting back their money," he added.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. described the ruling as an "unwarranted assault against our sovereignty."

A former political detainee himself, Pimentel said Real's ruling was an "insult to judiciary and unpardonable overbearing on the part of America."

He said this "highhanded and arrogant act" should not be glossed over. "The Department of Foreign Affairs should protest it formally and the people reject it for the impertinence that it is."

In a statement, Sen. Joker Arroyo described the US court ruling as a "judicial heresy," pointing out that the Supreme Court is "supreme over all matters within its jurisdiction" and that neither the President nor Congress could challenge that.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, for his part, said US courts have no jurisdiction over Philippine courts.

"This is a purely internal matter," said Pangilinan. "Allowing a US court to set aside the (power) of the Supreme Court of the Philippines will not augur well for the nation."

Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) dismissed as "having no bearing on Philippine soil" the US court ruling against the transfer of Marcos funds.

Rosales said Real's ruling "will not hold water" because it is "only valid and enforceable in US territory." "The court ruling therefore has nothing but a persuasive character and is not binding," Rosales said.

Rod Domingo, who represents Claimants 1081, said the order was "valid" but admitted it cannot be enforced outside the US. "What Judge Real did was right, but the enforcement of that order is something else," he added.

Marie Enriquez, secretary general of Selda, a group of former political detainees under Marcos, said Real's order was "sad and unfortunate."

"It is sad and unfortunate that the court that made a favorable judgment (in the human rights lawsuit) has become an instrument in blocking the realization of the indemnification of the victims," she said. *With AP, AFP reports*

LULI with her father, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo

Lay off, Luli asks media

BREAKING her silence, presidential daughter Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo yesterday appealed to the media to lay off the private affairs of the First Family as her father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, apologized to her over his reported illicit affair.

"I do hope that the media will pick up the good news that we have today and don't focus on my family," a smiling Luli said in her speech at the Metrobank branch turnover in Makati City.

It was the first time that the low-profile, youngest child and only daughter of the First Couple made a passing comment in public about the latest controversy that hit her family.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson has alleged that Mr. Arroyo laundered millions of pesos in campaign contributions to his wife, and insinuated that he kept an illicit affair with his client, Victoria "Vicky" Toh.

Mr. Arroyo denied the charges.

Mr. Arroyo, for his part, also apologized to his daughter over his reported illicit relationship with Toh.

"If there is any impropriety that you think has been committed because of *tsismis* (gossip), I'm very sorry I've caused you so much pain," a contrite-looking Mr. Arroyo said in a recent TV interview.

He said that of their three children, Luli, was the most affected by Lacson's exposé. "I would sometimes see her crying ... I would embrace her, but she would leave. It's very painful."

Luli's appeal to the media and her father's apology were reported by GMA 7 in its early evening news program, "Frontpage."

Mutiny leaders remain defiant in DOJ probe

By TJ Burgonio

THE SIX alleged mutiny leaders yesterday appeared at the start of the preliminary investigation of the coup charges lodged against them before a three-man panel from the justice department.

Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, and Captains Milo Maestrecampo, Gerardo Gambala, Gary Alejano and Nicanor Faeldon appeared at the hearing in Camp Aguinaldo, wearing red arm bands.

The six officers, tagged as mutiny leaders, were among the 321 officers and enlisted personnel who were charged with coup before the Department of Justice by the National Bureau of Investigation.

During the hearing, the officers' lawyers, Homobono Adaza and Reynaldo Robles, filed a motion seeking the dismissal of the case as well as the transfer of the preliminary investigation. The panel did not issue any ruling on the motion.

The hearing was held supposedly behind closed doors at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club, but some mediamen managed to slip in.

The DOJ also conducted separate preliminary investigations of other officers and enlisted personnel facing the same charges at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, and the Navy headquarters in Sangley Point, Cavite.

"We are wearing red armbands in protest of the government's blatant disregard of the terms of agreement at Oakwood," Maestrecampo said in a note he hastily wrote and later handed to reporters.

He claimed that the agreement reached during negotiations specified that charges would only be filed against the five alleged leaders in a military court.

In their motion, the officers' counsels argued that the case should be dismissed, saying that the Ombudsman, not the DOJ, was the proper agency to conduct the preliminary investigation.

Citing rules of the court, they also asserted that the Makati City prosecutor's office should conduct the preliminary investigation, saying "It's the DOJ who reviews the findings of lower bodies which conduct the preliminary investigation."

"To place this case with the panel is 'lutong makaw' since the President of the Philippines is effectively the complainant and the DOJ, the person who created the panel, is the alter ego of the President," they added.

Medicine prices cut by 50%

LOW-INCOME earners can now afford to buy medicines after local drug manufacturers agreed to cut the prices of selected basic medicines by as much as 50 percent.

According to the interagency National Price Coordinating Council, headed by the Department of Trade and Industry, the prices of vital and basic drugs, such as paracetamol, antibiotics and intravenous fluids, would be reduced by at least half.

The Department of Health, a member of NPCC, said the reduction in the prices of medicines was in line with its "Gamot na Mabisa Abot Kaya" program, which aims to promote cheap generic drugs for the masses.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II welcomed the drug manufacturers' move, saying it was a step toward corporate social responsibility among the business community.

"This will greatly augment our parallel drug importation program which is presently helping many of our less fortunate fellow Filipinos," he said in a statement.

The DTI said that drug manufacturers that pledged to lower their medicine prices belong to the following groups: Philippine Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Inc., Philippine Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association, Association of Drug Industries of the Philippines and the Chamber of Filipino Drug Manufacturers.

The reduction in the prices of local medicines, including generics, is expected to complement the country's bid before the World Trade Organization to be granted access to generic versions of expensive foreign drugs.

Roxas, who is currently in Cambodia for the Asean Economic Ministers Meeting, will represent the country in the forthcoming 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization from Sept. 10-14 in Cancun, Mexico. *Michelle V. Remo*

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Dentist, teener kidnapped in Jolo

JOLO, Sulu—Armed men suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group struck anew, abducting two people, including a local Filipino-Chinese dentist, before dawn yesterday.

Jolo police chief Mohibuddin Ismael said Romeo Lao, a dentist, and his nephew Amor Rubio, 16, were seized by armed men along Scott Road in Barangay Asturias, some 700 meters from Lao's house.

The two were on a scooter and were on their way to the family-owned bakery in the downtown area at around 5 a.m. when they were abducted. The suspects also took with them the scooter.

Ismael said nobody witnessed the incident.

Ismael declined to name any suspects but sources close to the victims' families believe it was the work of the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim rebel group that has been kidnapping Christians and foreigners in Mindanao in the past decade. Jolo is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang.

The Lao family, Ismael said, sensed that something happened to the dentist when he failed to open the bakery which is his daily routine. Some of the bakery's customers wondered why the bakery was still closed at 7 a.m.

Ismael said the police have no lead yet as to which group pulled off the abduction because the families of the kidnap victims have not been contacted yet by the suspects as of press time.

But he said the police are coordinating with the military for a search and recovery operation.

The Abu Sayyaf, which became notorious for its high-profile kidnappings in recent years, also targets locals. Lao and Rubio are both Christian residents of Jolo.

Last year, it abducted a group of Jehovah's Witnesses preachers and beheaded two of the victims.

The remaining victims had managed to escape and have since been reunited with their families.

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked by both Washington and Manila to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden. *Ed P. General, PDI Mindanao Bureau with AFP report*

Marine slain in Patikul clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Marine soldier was killed when government troopers clashed with heavily armed Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Patikul, Sulu, early Thursday morning, the military said yesterday.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko identified the slain soldier as Pfc. Teddy Torres of the 4th Marine Battalion Landing Team.

Kyamko said elements of the 24th Marine Company, to which Torres belonged, were operating in Barangay Timpook around 7 a.m. when they encountered some 50 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Radulan Sahiron. Torres was killed during the firefight.

Kyamko said the Naval Forces West Mindanao dispatched two watercraft along the shorelines of Patikul to intercept the fleeing bandits.

At least two members of Sahiron's group were captured during a military operation at a beach resort in General Santos City, he said.

Acting on a tip-off, soldiers from the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade led by Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano arrested Maa Manggot and Musa Impo, both of Maasim town in Sarangani province, he said.

"Our civilian spotter positively identified the duo as (Abu Sayyaf) members under Radulan Sahiron and they were part of the group that kidnapped six members of the Jehovah's Witnesses," Kyamko said.

The day before, Kyamko said soldiers also captured two suspected bandits during an operation in downtown General Santos City.

He said Ryan Harid Ambay and Marin Bucaysa belong to a faction headed by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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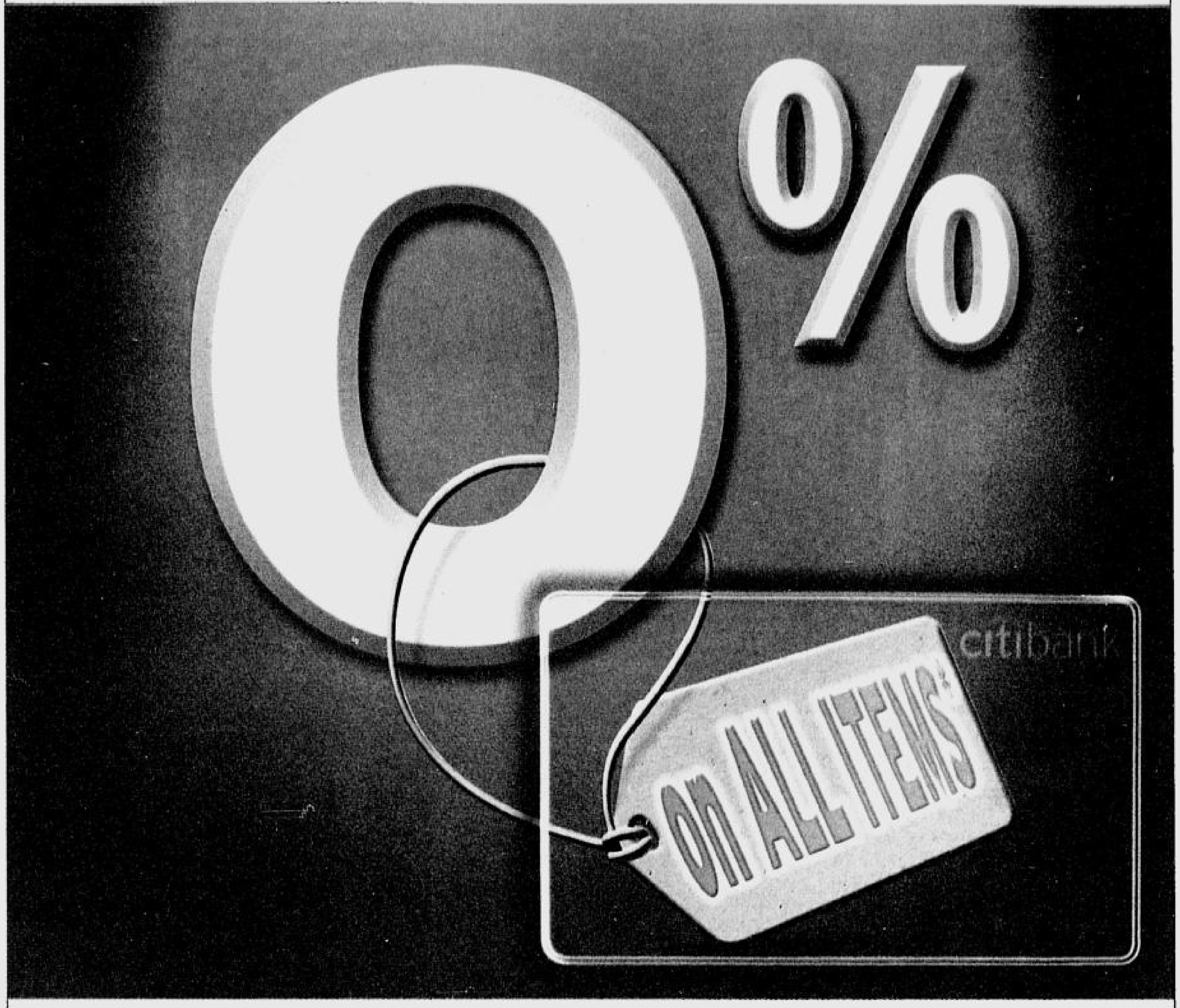

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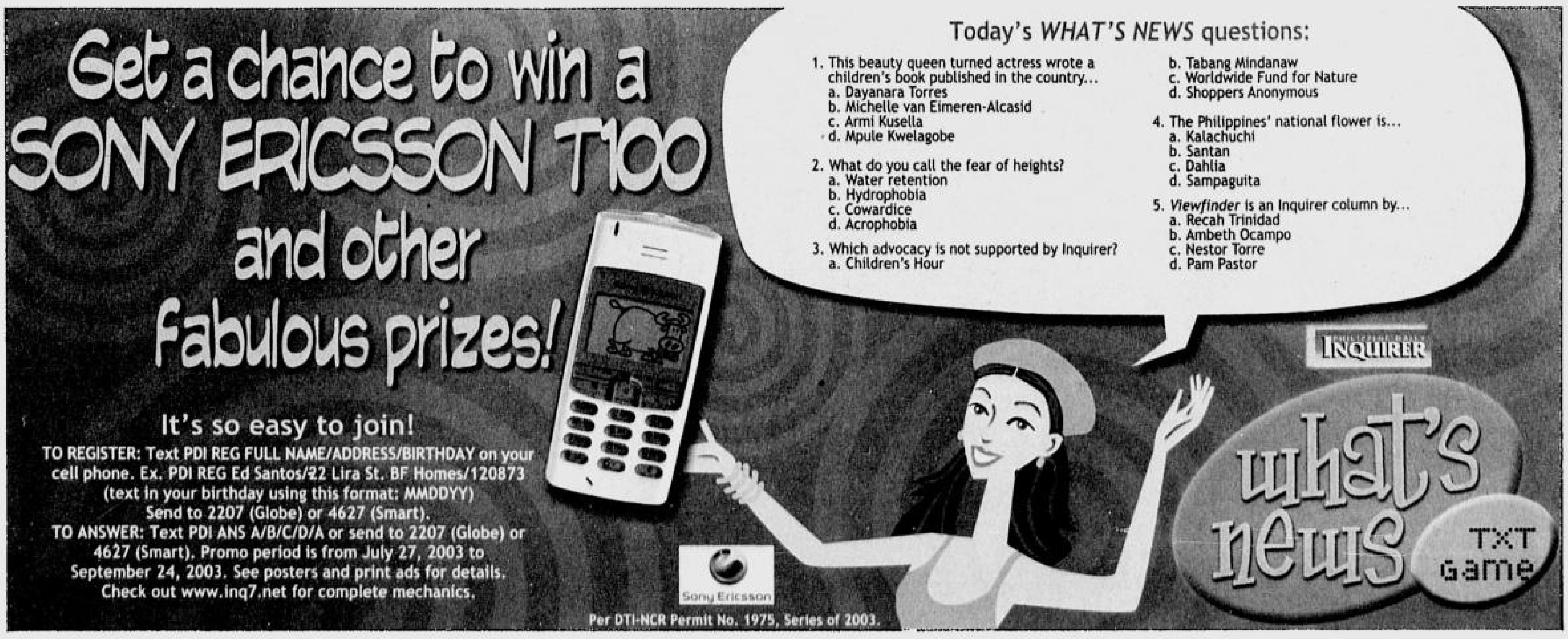
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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:

1. This beauty queen turned actress wrote a children's book published in the country...
   a. Dayanara Torres
   b. Michelle van Eimeren-Alcasid
   c. Armi Kusella
   d. Mpule Kwelagobe
2. What do you call the fear of heights?
   a. Water retention
   b. Hydrophobia
   c. Cowardice
   d. Acrophobia
3. Which advocacy is not supported by Inquirer?
   a. Children's Hour
   b. Tabang Mindanaw
   c. Worldwide Fund for Nature
   d. Shoppers Anonymous
4. The Philippines' national flower is...
   a. Kalachuchi
   b. Santan
   c. Dahlia
   d. Sampaguita
5. *Viewfinder* is an Inquirer column by...
   a. Recah Trinidad
   b. Ambeth Ocampo
   c. Nestor Torre
   d. Pam Pastor

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975, Series of 2003.

Non-candidate GMA woos Tondo slum dwellers

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SHE might have closed the door on running in 2004, but President Macapagal-Arroyo looked every bit a presidential candidate, captivating the slum dwellers with low fares, stable prices of basic goods and land titles and thanking them profusely for not joining protest actions to bring down her administration.

The President's speech at the Parola compound in Tondo yesterday was interrupted by chants of "GMA! GMA! GMA!" from the crowd made up of Parola residents and constituents of Mayor Lito Atienza.

The President-said she intended to step up her visits to urban poor communities in the coming weeks and that she would take another swing to the provinces "to broaden our people's support for the big push forward."

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said: "I am taking a direct hand stabilizing transport fares and the price of prime commodities in the face of upward trend in fuel prices."

The President said she would convene a meeting of the Metro Manila Council and the National Executive and Development Authority executive committee to discuss what local government units could do to ensure that the regulated fares of jeepneys and buses would not increase. She did not elaborate on how she planned to keep prices of prime commodities stable.

The President handed out the first 100 out of 2,000 certificates for eligibility for lot allocations that the government would hand out over the next three months. She said this was in keeping with the government's pledge to give security of tenure to 150,000 urban poor families every year.

She also announced plans to set up 20 one-stop shop processing centers in select urban poor communities that would hasten the applicants' bid to get a title.

"If there is a one-stop shop service to rich investors, there should also be one for the poor," the President said.

The President said her vision in giving land security to the urban poor was to duplicate the success of the "De Soto principle" in Latin America where slum dwellers were able to use their newly-awarded land titles to borrow capital to start a business.

"I hope that someday, and within our lifetime, you can proudly say that you are not squatters anymore in your own land," the President said.

The President also expressed her gratitude to the audience for cooperating in thwarting the destabilization attempt which has turned the government's attention away from more pressing problems such as poverty, crime and terrorism.

"You are the ones they wanted to have on their side to topple the government, but you rejected them and for that, I give you my thanks," the President said. "I am asking you to maintain your full trust in the government."

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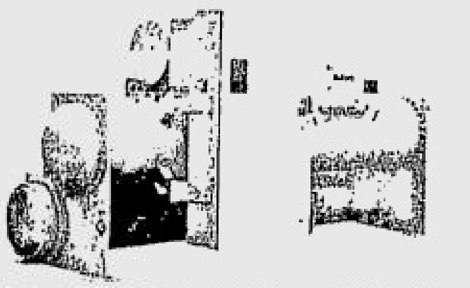

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Sandigan orders arrest of Fariñas in graft case

By Armand Nocum

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered the arrest anew of former Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas after he failed to attend a hearing for graft before the antigraft court.

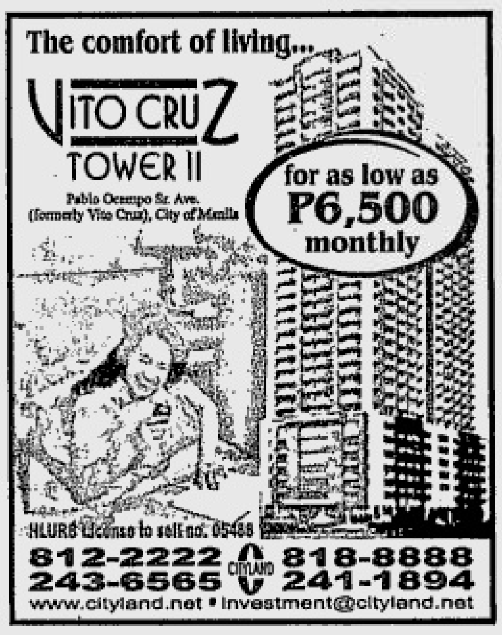
Sandiganbayan fifth division chair Minita Chico-Nazario issued the arrest order on Sept. 2 after Fariñas failed to appear in the hearing, where he was scheduled to present his defense evidence.

In her order, Chico-Nazario said lawful officers are "commanded to arrest (Farinas) … for his failure to appear in the hearing despite due notice."

Fariñas, also a former congressman, is accused of pocketing P300,000 in reimbursement funds for a speedboat bought by the Laoag provincial government when Fariñas was governor in 1991.

Fariñas had claimed buying the speedboat for $8,000, but it turned that the boat was donated by the Ilocano Association of Southern California for use during calamities.

Fariñas is out on a P20,000 bail bond.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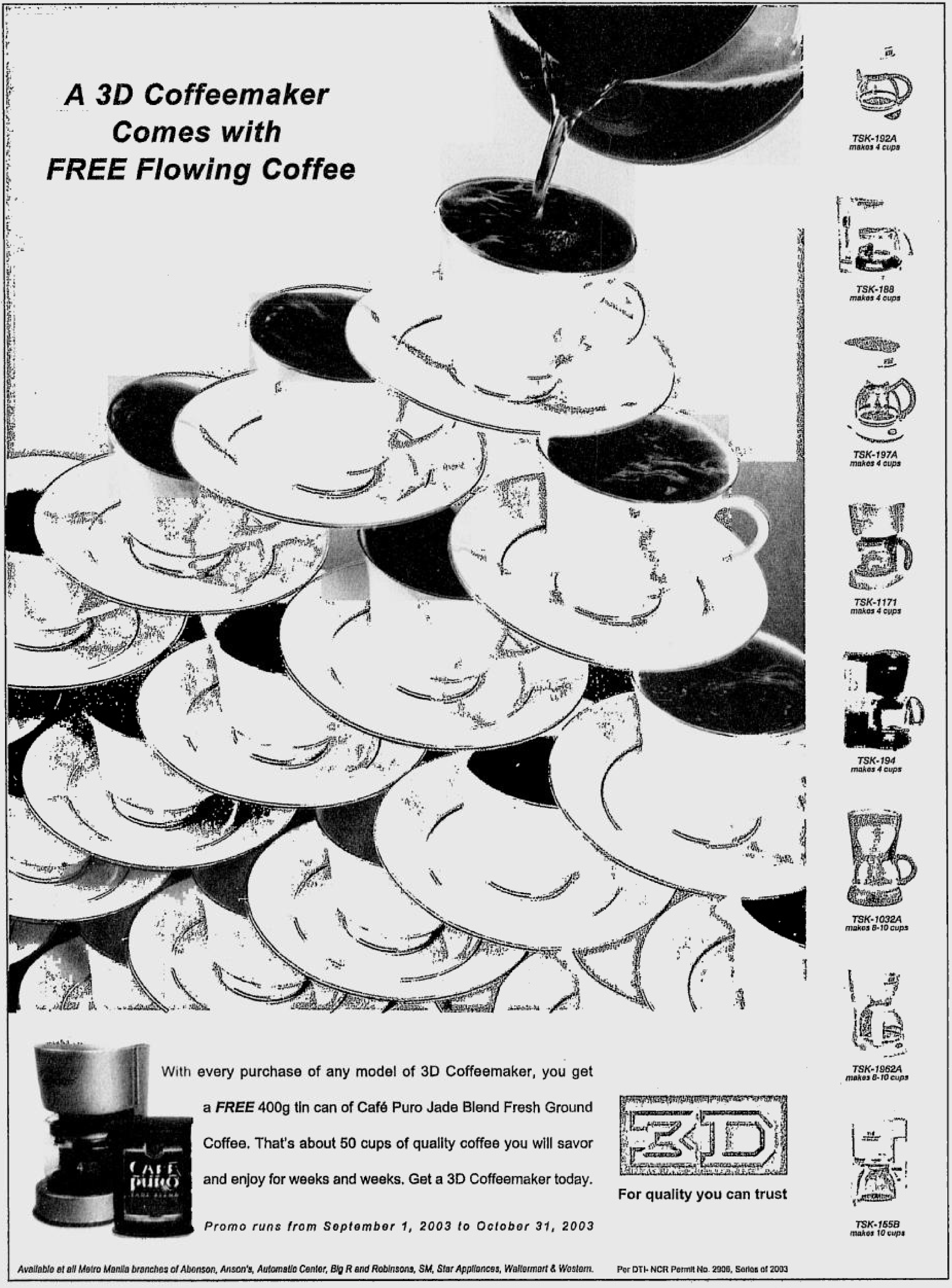
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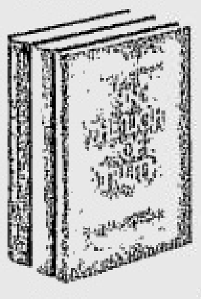

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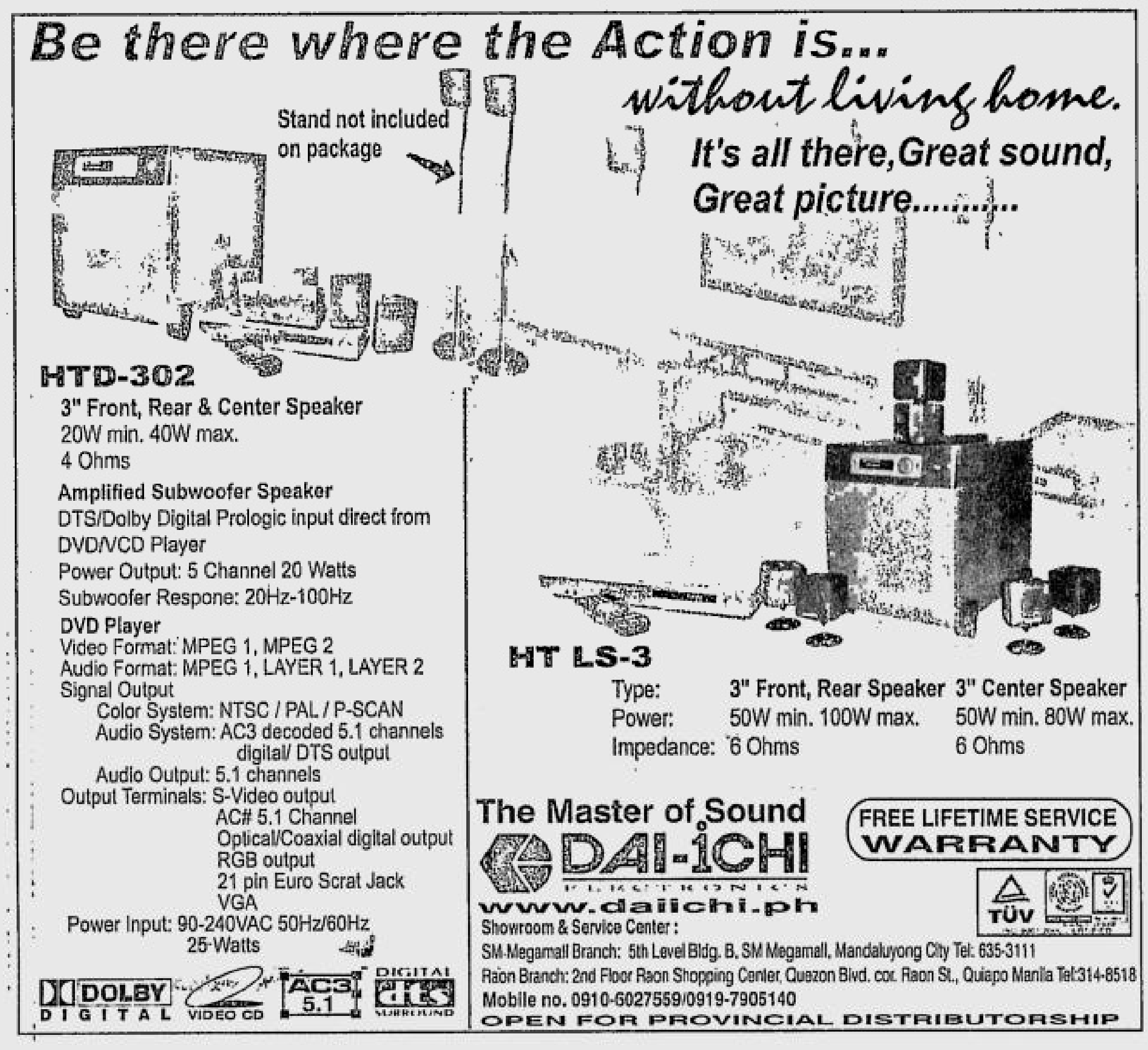

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Justice officials deny shielding former boss

GUTIERREZ

From page A1

In his speech at the Senate Thursday, Osmeña accused Gutierrez of obstructing justice "in the most arrogant manner." Gutierrez had earlier been quoted in a news report as saying that the DOJ would not assist Swiss investigators.

Osmeña disclosed that a Swiss prosecuting magistrate was investigating Perez, his wife Rosario and brother-in-law Ramon Arceo, and investment banker Ernest Escaler in connection with the suspected laundering of $2 million.

He said Swiss authorities wrote the Philippine government in April, seeking help in the investigation. He brought to the Senate a copy of the request.

But Gutierrez yesterday said the request was forwarded, not to the DOJ, but to the Department of Foreign Affairs. "The DOJ was not consulted," she said, adding that the DFA had submitted the Philippines' response and was awaiting feedback from the Swiss authorities.

Perez is alleged to have extorted the money from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in exchange for favorable action on a power contract between the government and the Argentine firm Impsa.

Sen. John Osmeña yesterday said the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, which he chairs, would resume its hearings on the alleged extortion in the third week of September.

He said Perez, as well as the DOJ and DFA officials whom Sen. Serge Osmeña had accused of not notifying the Senate and ignoring the request of Swiss authorities, would be invited to testify.

John Osmeña also said the committee would also eventually summon Rosario Perez, Arceo and Escaler.

No record

Gutierrez said Swiss authorities had asked if there were "a case filed in any court or body" against Perez that would be relevant to their investigation on the alleged money laundering.

She said the DFA forwarded the query to the Ombudsman, and it was the Ombudsman's reply that the DFA sent to the Swiss authorities.

She added that there was no record in the DOJ of any case against Perez that was related to money laundering.

Datumanong said the DOJ had not received an order from Malacañang to investigate Perez.

"But we assure Senator Osmeña or anybody that we will act [once there is a complaint]," he said.

Gutierrez also said the DOJ would help the Swiss authorities in their investigation.

She said her earlier statement that the Philippines was under "no obligation" to help Switzerland was based on the fact that the two countries were not bound by a mutual legal assistance treaty because the one signed last year had yet to be ratified.

What this means is that the Philippines will not be able to help Switzerland when it comes to obtaining information that requires court approval, such as details concerning bank accounts, Gutierrez said.

However, she added, the DOJ could help by getting the sworn statements of witnesses and providing non-confidential documentary evidence.

'Glaring'

Ousted President Joseph Estrada thinks that the crime of which he is accused pales in comparison with that of Perez, and that the government should lose no time in investigating the former justice secretary.

"*Masyadong* (It's so) glaring," said Estrada, who is accused of plunder and is now detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

He said that given the documents now surfacing in connection with the alleged extortion, the government would not only lose its "moral authority" but would also be committing a crime should it continue to turn a blind eye on the matter.

"Their attempts to cover up the issue amount to an obstruction of justice," he said, adding that he too had received a copy of the Swiss request asking the Philippine government for information on Perez's case.

Estrada said the "paper trail" was so detailed as to be very convincing.

He said the government should make the extra effort to go after Perez, to show that it was serious in bagging the "big fish" and not simply the small fry *("maliliit na tao")*, including customs, public works and internal revenue employees now being subjected to a lifestyle check.

Estrada also said it was a matter of pride to him that he never had a "rogue" member of the Cabinet.

"This thing never happened in my time. I never had a Cabinet member like [Perez]," he said.

"In my case, I was only accused of taking money from *jueteng*, and the money remains intact in the bank," he said of the more than P200 million he had collected for the Muslim Youth Foundation, an alleged dummy firm. "But in the case of Perez, he is accused of taking money directly from a government power contract."

Estrada predicted that this issue, along with the "Jose Pidal" accounts, the downward spiral of the economy and the restiveness of the military, would work to bring down the Macapagal administration. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Armand N. Nocum*

Hollywood, NBA glitz ...

From page A1

National Basketball Association power to spice up the American president's visit in October.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon told members of the House appropriations committee that his agency is inviting American actor Robin Williams and NBA superstar Karl Malone to come to Manila as part of a "package of special events that will coincide with the Bush visit."

Both Williams and Malone, who has signed up with the Los Angeles Lakers, are married to Filipinas.

Gordon also said that they plan to bring back Filipino-American actors Tia Carrere and Lou Diamond Philipps, who were in Manila last August.

Gordon said the Department of Tourism is also planning to fly in actor Rob Schneider, country singer Dusty Brooks, and US Army Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano.

The mothers of Schneider and Philipps are Filipinos, while Soriano and Carrere both have Filipino parents.

Gordon presented the plans in last week's hearing of the DOT's proposed P1.1 billion budget for 2004.

Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur), chair of the appropriations committee, noted that the presence of Williams, Malone and company may even steal the thunder from the president of the most powerful nation in the world.

Andaya said: "They won't give a hoot if Dubya won't make it but they'll (Filipinos) feel bad if Mrs. Doubtfire won't be able to come."

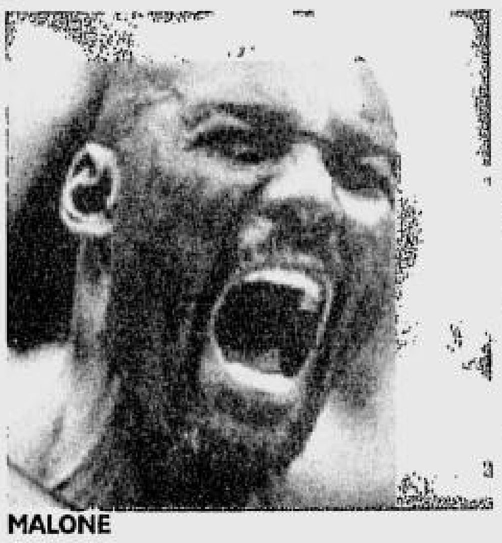
Dubya is the Bush's middle-initial-inspired nickname while Mrs. Doubtfire is the title of a Williams movie where he impersonated a nanny so he can stay close to his children, Andaya explained.

Gordon told congressmen that the DOT is recommending a brief tour for Bush to Corregidor, Leyte, Bataan, Taal Volcano and Intramuros, Manila. He admits though whether Bush will have time for these trips.

Even so, Gordon said the DOT is searching for a "Filipino icon (historical site or landmark) which President Bush can visit with maximum press and publicity mileage such as the Thomasites' landing site."

The DOT was referring to the Manila wharf where the US Army transport ship Thomas unloaded the first batch of American teachers more than a century ago. The teachers later came to be known as the Thomasites.

The DOT said it is also organizing visit-the-Philippines tours for big Filipino-American groups for the Bush visit.



MALONE

WILLIAMS

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone has left for Washington to finalize plans for the US president's visit here, the US embassy's counselor for public affairs Ronald Post said in Angeles yesterday.

Post said security arrangements for the Bush visit are vital in the preparations. He said the embassy was "looking at all the factors" that go into a presidential visit.

"The security of our president is very important," he said.

No tentative itinerary was given but Post said a lot of possibilities were being explored for the visit.

A stopover at Clark and Subic, two large former military bases-turned-economic zones in Central Luzon that now host big US companies, appears unlikely at this point, he said.

"There had not been enough details," Post said.

"We are looking very much forward to it," he said of the visit that Ricciardone earlier said would push through despite fears of new destabilization attempts against the Macapagal administration. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Only 565,275 out of expected 5.3M voters sign up with Comelec

By Marin P. Marfil

COMMISSION on Elections records yesterday showed that only 565,275 out of an estimated 5.263 million voters registered and validated their registration for the first month of the ongoing registration for the 2004 elections.

The figures, collated from Aug. 4 to Sept. 4, is only 10.74 percent of the total votes in Metro Manila.

For first-time voters, Comelec records showed only 32,311 voters.

Comelec officials earlier said they expect about 4 million first-time voters nationwide to participate in the coming polls.

Officials also said they plan to file petitions for exclusion for 11,715 people in Metro Manila.

The last day for registration will be on Oct. 31 while validation ends on Dec. 12.

The bulk of those who would be excluded—for multiple registration—are in Taguig, Makati, Las Piñas and Caloocan.

Another batch of 32 individuals will face triple cases of multiple registration.

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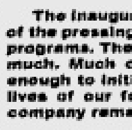
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I send my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Central Country Estate, Inc. as you celebrate your 3rd Year Anniversary and Launch the Phase 2 Eastlake and Venice of The Lakeshore Estate.

The inauguration of the new phase is most welcome in the light of the pressing need to speed up the implementation of our housing programs. The government, with all its best efforts , can only do so much. Much of the work will still be borne by those who care enough to initiate projects that will have a dramatic impact o the lives of our fellowmen. Thus, it is heartening to note that your company remains an active contributor to our common vision.

Again, my congratulations to the men and women of Central Country Estate, Inc. as you embark on this new housing venture. May you continue to exemplify the commitment and dedication to serve the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!



MANUEL M. LAPID
Governor
Province of Pampanga

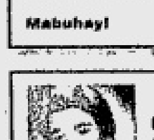
Congratulations to the Central Country Estate Incorporated o the occasion o f The Lakeshore's 3rd Anniversary and Phase 2 Launching on September 7, 2003.

I am glad to note that for the past three years, 235 hectares of prime land in our province have metamorphosed into an idyllic place for first-rate country living.

The centerpiece of this exceptional residential area is a twelve-hectare man-made lake surrounded by parks and beautiful gardens where homeowners and their guests can indulge in fun-filled activities such as fishing and sailing.

I, therefore, would like to convey my appreciation to all those involved in the realization of this dream project which will certainly go a long way in boosting local tourism in Pampanga.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat!



ERNESTO M. PAMINTUAN
Municipal Mayor
Mexico, Pampanga

Through this missive, I would like to convey my warm greetings to the competent and committed men and women of the Central Country Estate Inc. on the occasion of their The Lakeshore's 3rd Year Anniversary and Phase II launching.

With their skills and sound expertise in development and marketing strategies, it is no wonder that The Lakeshore would come out as the most renowned and talked-about emerging A-one subdivision here and abroad.

Yes, there are so many things to be done and several plans to implement in order for us t see an ASENSO MEXICO status; but with the help of friends like the prestigious Central Country Estate Incorporated, Mexico would emerge as a business hub and the best community of Pampanga.

Mabuhay!

Today, a growing number of well-heeled homeowners are choosing a more meaningful way of life. The Lakeshore Estate has been master-planned to provide an eclectic mix of discerning high-powered professionals with the quieter offerings of tasteful and elegant countryside living.

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The Lakeshore Estate brings fortunate residents to a natural setting that's truly awe-inspiring. The lake, a half-mile expanse of freshwater is a standout feature that gives the estate an unrivaled family-friendly atmosphere with the incomparable charm and recreational possibilities of a resort community .

The main street, parks, squares and businesses are all within walking distance. The Lakeshore permits residents to enjoy the serenity of being away from it all and the excitement of living near the action. The Lakeshore is only an hour's drive from Metro Manila while downtown San Fernando with its huge malls and booming commerce is only 4 easy minutes away.

Launched by the Central Country Estate, The Lakeshore Estate has turned out to be extremely successful in attracting buyers who can choose from a variety of model homes or buy undeveloped space and work with Nestor Mangio and Associates to design their ideal home. The Lakeshore's Phase I has been sold out. It was a "walk in the park" for the top ten agents of The Lakeshore Marketing Corporation to sell lots as the project virtually sold itself, propelled by enthusiastic referrals from satisfied clients.

The Lakeshore Marketing Corporation honors its Top Ten Sales Agents.

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For those who are wisely trading a whirlwind pace for the serene richness of nature-inspired country living, there is no other place to call home quite like The Lakeshore.

The Lakeshore Festivbal 2003 is set for today Saturday, Sept 06, 2003 at 9am featuring: Model Sailboat Regatta, Kite Flying, Kayaking & Canoeing Exhibition, Fishing, Boating, Open Air Concert, Bazaars and a lot more.
The Lakeshore 3rd Year Anniversary & Phase II Launching is on September 7, 2003 at the Hotel Gracelane, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

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Alex Carlos surfaces . . .

From page A1

Carlos, who has business contracts with the government, said he had nothing to gain by antagonizing Arroyo.

"What could possibly be my motive? Why would I risk my life and my fortune to help a simple man invent stories against Atty. Mike Arroyo?" Carlos said.

Carlos is the president of North Front Inc., which has had cargo handling contracts with the National Food Authority during the last 15 years.

Carlos denied he helped Mahusay draw up charges against Arroyo and obtain confidential documents to pin down the First Gentleman on the Jose Pidal bank accounts.

He said it was Dy who arranged the meeting between him, Mahusay and Lito Banayo, Lacson's political lieutenant.

He said Dy, a friend of Mahusay's, was his "acquaintance" with whom he had explored business opportunities in the past.

Source of documents

"Am I better than James Bond?" he said in response to Mahusay's claim that he supplied the Pidal documents, which Lacson cited in two privilege speeches.

Carlos surmised that either Mahusay had another source who supplied him the documents or Mahusay had plenty of documents all along but decided to show them "piece by piece, for whatever reason."

Carlos said that upon Dy's request, he gave Mahusay a part-time job in his fighting cock breeding farm in Cardona, Rizal, after the latter had a falling out with his employers at LTA Inc.—Arroyo and his personal accountant Vicky Toh.

During their conversations in the farm, Carlos said, Mahusay would talk in great detail and showed him "letters, pictures and xeroxed documents" to back up his story.

Interesting story

Carlos conceded he found Mahusay's story "interesting" but cautioned him about going public about it.

He said he first shared Mahusay's story with two lawyers, who dismissed the story as "unbelievable."

He said it was during a chance meeting with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel that he told the senator about Mahusay. He said he has been Pimentel's friend for about two years now after he attended Pimentel's campaign meeting on the federalist system of government.

Carlos said he could have brought up the matter with any other senator, but "it so happened that I only knew Nene."

"I asked Nene for advice about the boy (Mahusay) because I could not tell whether he was telling the truth," Carlos said.

Pimentel then met him and Mahusay at The Barn restaurant on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. Pimentel, however, found Mahusay's story lacking in corroborative evidence.

Later, Carlos said, Dy called and said he could arrange a meeting between Mahusay and Banayo.

He said he discouraged such a meeting, telling Dy: "*Ayoko na. Tigilan 'nyo na.* (I don't want to get involved anymore. Stop it.)"

But he said Mahusay, apparently in contact with Dy on his own and had knowledge of the proposed meeting, "asked me to accompany him" to Banayo.

"So the allegation that I 'brought' him to Banayo, that's not true," he said.

"*Dahil mahal ko yung bata at ayokong mapahamak kaya ko sinamahan.* (I accompanied him because I love the boy and I didn't want him to get into trouble.)"

During the meeting with Banayo at the Solid Mills Building in Makati City, Carlos said he even cautioned Banayo "not to take Mahusay's documents at face value."

Carlos says he now regrets playing "Good Samaritan" to Mahusay, who he described as a loyal aide.

He said he was particularly hurt when he heard Mahusay "apologize to everyone except me" when the latter recanted his testimony against Arroyo during a Senate hearing earlier this week.

Bishop slams 'grandstanding' politicos, 'laughingstock' Senate

From page A1

benefit of the people.

"Look at our politicians ... They're so busy grandstanding, for self-aggrandizement," he said, adding:

"Look at our Senate. It has become the laughingstock of everyone, with all sorts of personalities investigating everything ... except their own scams. *Nakakahiya* (It's shameful)."

Malacañang said Lacson's corruption charges against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had lost steam because he had no concrete evidence to back his accusations.

"The controversy seems to be sputtering out, and the Palace has nothing to say to express confidence that truth and justice will prevail in the end, both in the Senate and in the courts," the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

He said this view was shared by many.

"The investigation is going nowhere," he added. "Without evidence, this will just be interpreted as grandstanding by the senator."

Tobias, bishop of of San Fernando, La Union, said what the country needed were leaders who knew the difference between right and wrong, so that there would be "honest governance" instead of "high-level" corruption.

He said mutinies like the one on July 27 were occurring because corruption had seeped into all the corners of the bureaucracy.

This kind of corruption works against the poor because it eats up the money that should trickle down to them, the bishop said.

"The poor bear the brunt of everything that happens in society," Tobias said. "I don't know where our country is headed."

He also said "politicians and public servants should keep their vow to serve the people," the way priests should keep the vow of celibacy.

Drilon's request

Armed with a modified special power of attorney issued by the First Gentleman's younger brother Ignacio Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he would send a letter to the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Unionbank of the Philippines to ask that the Pidal accounts be opened.

"I will be sending this to the two banks to find out if there's balance, and withdraw the same in accordance with the instructions of [Ignacio Arroyo]," Drilon said.

He told the INQUIRER that as a matter of procedure, he could not go directly to the banks.

"We will await the reply. Why should I go there if there is no more money left?" he said.

Drilon explained that the SPA issued the other day by Ignacio Arroyo, who had claimed to be Pidal, only covered withdrawals and did not authorize him to get the records of all the transactions relating to the Pidal accounts.

He said any money found in the accounts would be given to the employees of the Senate and the enlisted men of the Armed Forces.

Ignacio Arroyo issued on Friday a modified SPA to Drilon after the latter complained that the first SPA issued on Sept. 1 was worthless.

The Senate President said Ignacio Arroyo should sign the name Jose Pidal "after whom the accounts are named."

The original SPA listed 13 accounts. The new one added three more: Account No. 6615-00497-7 with the BPI Family Bank main branch (balance of P25,344,913.35 as of July 2003); Account No. 00073001483-6 with Unionbank of the Philippines; and one "purportedly with an ending balance of P36.6 million as of July 30, 2003."

Ignacio Arroyo appointed Drilon as his attorney-in-fact to "withdraw any and all monies now deposited in any and all current bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal," in response to a challenge made by Lacson.

Off to Sydney

Drilon confirmed that Lacson would be absent at the continuation Monday of the Senate inquiry into the corruption and money laundering allegations against the President's husband.

"Senator Lacson will not be there," Drilon said. "He asked for authority to travel to Sydney, Australia, from Sept. 4 to 14. The authority was given to him as of Aug. 27."

Drilon had expected Lacson to present evidence on Monday to back his charges.

"At the minimum, I would like to see the originals of the checks and bank records he presented to the Senate during his privileged speech," Drilon said. "But he will be away, so we can't expect him to do so."

Initial reports said Lacson had flown to Australia to gather more information against Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The Senate blue ribbon committee, along with the committees on constitutional amendments and on banks, is expected to call 18 witnesses, including Ignacio Arroyo.

Also expected to testify are Lito Banayo, Lacson's spokesperson, and Alex Carlos and Allan Dy, whom Lacson's ex-star witness Eugenio Mahusay Jr. named as the ones who helped him bring his case against the President's husband to the senator.

Instability, image

Blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo said the business community had expressed concern on how the Senate inquiry was affecting the economy.

"They sent word to us that this is not doing business any good because it adds to the instability ... that is compounded by the restiveness of the military," the senator said in a news conference.

He said he had also heard that some businessmen wanted the Senate to conduct its inquiry in executive session, or behind closed doors. But he said this was not possible because such sessions were held only if the issue involved national security or private matters.

Reacting to Bishop Tobias' statement that the Senate had become a laughingstock, Joker Arroyo told the INQUIRER that he was himself concerned about the "image" of the Senate."

"But part of the problem is that Senator Lacson has not produced documentary evidence to prove his allegations," Joker Arroyo said.

"We are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea," he added, noting that they would be criticized whether they terminated or continued the proceedings.

He also said that because of the Bank Secrecy Law, the opposition was now faced with the problem of how to open the bank accounts that Lacson said Jose Miguel Arroyo owned.

He recalled that it was the opposition who pushed for the retention of the Bank Secrecy Law during deliberations on the proposed Anti-Money Laundering Act, and that he had supported this.

This is why Lacson should produce the documents himself, because what the committee needs now is documentary evidence against the First Gentleman, Joker Arroyo said.

"Because so far, what is happening in the committee hearings is the word of one against the word of another," he added. ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño***

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'Poison in the air': Politicians seek ceasefire in bickering

From page A1

told reporters.

De Venecia said the ceasefire on political bickering should hold until the "beginning of the legitimate election period so that we could all concentrate on our work."

Privileged speeches

Asked whether the ceasefire would include a halt to the delivery of privileged speeches against President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Drilon said the leaders believe in the principle of transparency and the need to root out graft and corruption in government. But "we must know the limits of political debate," he said.

"It must not go to the extent of precisely poisoning the minds of the people on the duly constituted authority in terms of its legitimacy," the Senate President said.

The Senate is currently hearing the allegations of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson that Arroyo is the owner of secret multimillion-peso bank accounts.

Osmeña later told reporters that one of the items discussed in the meeting was the ongoing Senate inquiry on Arroyo.

But he emphasized that the Senate inquiry should not be terminated and should be allowed to "run its course."

Asked whether the opposition's proposal for President Macapagal to use the political summit to repeat her declaration not to run next year, Osmeña said no one raised the subject.

"Maybe we all thought that it was going to be a divisive issue and the prevailing mood this morning was to find a way of surviving," Osmeña said.

Drilon said the opposition's proposal was not discussed in the meeting while De Venecia stressed that there were no preconditions set for the holding of the summit.

Charter change

On the commitment of the Senate and the House to constitutional change, Drilon said the Senate will give the issue its "highest priority" in the next three weeks or before Congress takes its break.

Drilon said that he would call a caucus early next week "to make a go for the resolution" of Sen. Edgardo Angara whose committee on constitutional amendments has already recommended the convening of a constitutional convention.

The House, on the other hand, is recommending a use of a Constitutional Assembly.

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said the executive department supports the statements made by the working committee.

Others present in the meeting were Presidential Legislative Adviser Gabriel Claudio, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, House Deputy Minority Leader Agapito Aquino, Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia, and National People's Coalition president Frisco San Juan.

Rosales said she would inform other party-list groups in the House about the commitments made in yesterday's meeting.

"I don't think I can make a decision in favor of the different party-list groups," Rosales said.

Rosales said she found the issues raised in the meeting to be "important," requiring immediate attention.

General Reciña, 70

RETIRED Brig. Gen. Romeo M. Reciña died of heart failure Wednesday night at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. He was 70.

Reciña, a lawyer, is survived by his wife, retired judge and former Human Rights Commissioner Aurora N. Reciña, and sons Ronald-Marcus, a lawyer, and Raymond-Rufo, a doctor.

He was No. 8 in the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1957. He earned several military decorations, awards and commendations, including Best Provincial Commander in 1974 and Best Regional Commander in 1987.

He finished his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Liceo de Cagayan and passed the Bar examination in 1970.

After retiring from the service, he held various positions in government, the last as administrator of the Phividec Industrial Authority from 1994-1999. At the time of his death, he was a senior and founding partner of The Law Firm of Reciña, Reciña & Aragones.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz on G. Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Burial is scheduled on Tuesday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, after a 10 a.m. Mass.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

France, Germany battle US anew over Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—Lines were drawn Thursday for a new battle over Iraq at the United Nations after France and Germany rejected a US proposal for a multinational peacekeeping force.

Earlier, in a surprise visit to Baghdad, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld discussed plans to field Iraqi army and security forces and add international troops to the US-led occupation.

The two key European nations said a US-proposed UN Security Council resolution on Iraq did not go far enough to ensure a rapid transfer of authority to an Iraqi government.

"Really, it appears some way from the principal goal which is the transfer of authority to an Iraqi government as soon as possible," French President Jacques Chirac said at a news conference with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

"In truth, I think the same as he does, that the proposal doesn't go far enough, that it's not dynamic enough," Schroeder added.

Chirac said the US proposal would be discussed and that France and Germany "would have the chance to present amendments and modifications," but added: "we are still a long way from a situation" where France would vote in favor of it.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell dismissed their objections, setting the scene for a new diplomatic battle at the United Nations.

Powell said the resolution was better than anything France or Germany had proposed.

"I think the resolution is drafted in a way that deals with the concerns that leaders such as President Chirac and Chancellor Schroeder have raised in the past," Powell said after meeting Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.

"If they have suggestions, we'd be more than happy to listen to those suggestions."

Powell said the US plan to allow the Iraqis to set their own timetable for democratizing is preferable to what he called Franco-German moves to impose a timeframe from outside.

The draft US resolution does not explicitly place the US military in charge of the multinational force but says the United States would report to the Security Council about the contingent's efforts.

Powell said the United States was anxious to see a multinational force in place but faced with demands to cede responsibility to the United Nations, he has also insisted that the United States remain in charge.

Meanwhile, the administration of US President George W. Bush denied a report that he was poised to seek an additional $60 billion to $70 billion to finance US-led occupation and reconstruction in Iraq.

"I have not yet decided on a number," Bush told CNBC in an exclusive interview, rejecting a Washington Post report citing congressional budget experts as saying that he would ask Congress for the new money.

That figure would be double what lawmakers were expecting and suggests to what degree the administration lowballed the costs of putting Iraq on course for prosperity and democracy, the daily cited the experts as saying.

In Baghdad, the top US commander in Iraq said US troop strength was sufficient for current tasks but could use international help to meet security threats in the future.

"I have sufficient force to achieve the mission currently assigned," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said. "There is no force or threat out there that can't be handled."

US efforts to boost security on the ground continued as some 250 more Iraqi policemen graduated from a training program.

US overseer Paul Bremer has vowed to swiftly expand the Iraqi police force after a spate of deadly attacks.

Bremer said the US-led coalition planned to boost police numbers from fewer than 40,000 to between 65,000 and 70,000.

The coalition has also hired some of Saddam Hussein's former intelligence agents in the battle against foreign Islamists and loyalists of the ousted dictator, a pro-US faction said.

Greater security efforts appeared to pay off in Kirkuk where Kurdish forces found 1.2 tons of explosives packed in three trash bins, one left on a key bridge, a senior investigator said.

The discovery followed the arrest Wednesday of three suspected members of Ansar al-Islam—a shadowy militant Islamist group linked by Washington to al-Qaida—carrying suitcases filled with explosives in the city. *AFP*

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12-1 pm Money on Coffee Beans
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1-4 pm Taste of the future by Chef Ramil Aquillo
4-5 pm HACCP by Mr. Menandro Ortega of PTTC
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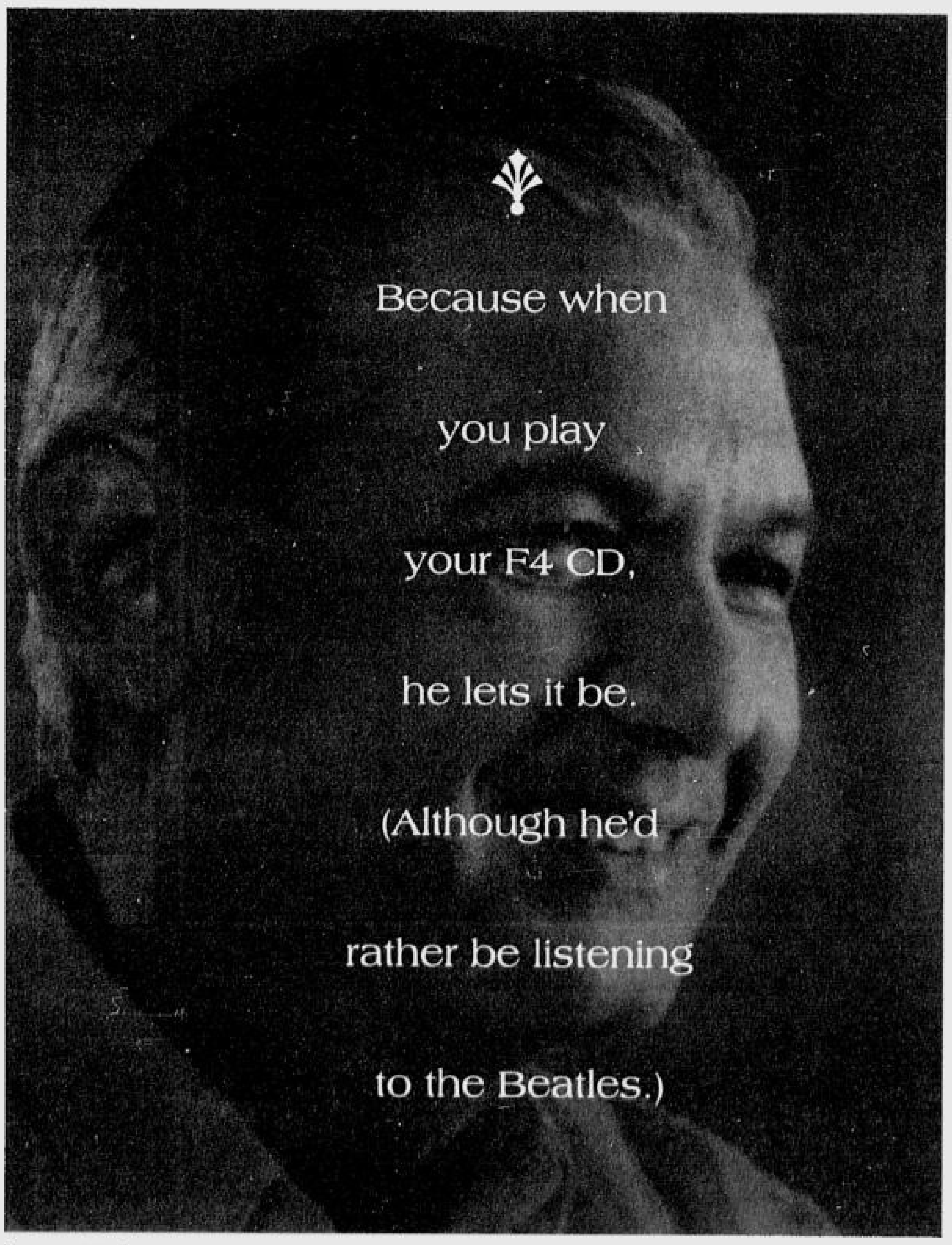

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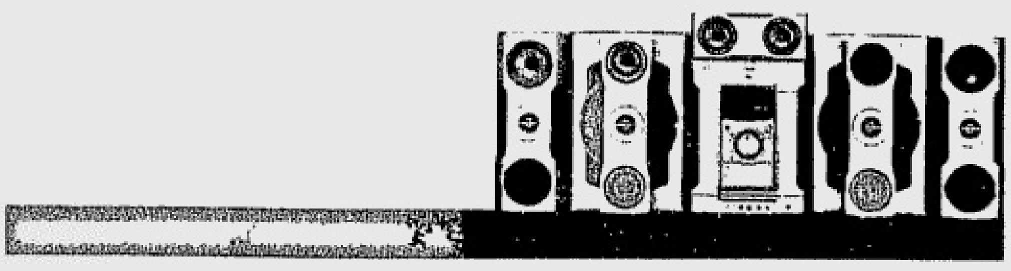

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Polly Roberts, a member of the staff at auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh, Scotland, models a pair of Victorian ear trumpets made from papier mache and worn like headphones, Sept. 4. AP

Suu Kyi not on hunger strike? Then free her, US tells Burma

WASHINGTON—The United States Thursday challenged Burma's (Myanmar's) junta to disprove its claim that democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was on hunger strike by releasing her from detention.

But the State Department could not say whether the Nobel laureate was still refusing food, while insisting it was confident of its sources when it announced Sunday the Nobel laureate was on hunger strike.

The US claim has triggered a string of fierce denials from Burma's military rulers, skepticism among some analysts and been contradicted by Thailand, an American ally.

"The junta in Burma can easily and unambiguously resolve all these concerns and reports, and resolve any questions by releasing her and, for that fact, allowing international access," said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

"We had credible information about Aung San Suu Kyi being on a hunger strike," he added but refused to divulge the source for Sunday's claim.

Asked whether Aung San Suu Kyi was still fasting, Boucher answered: "I don't think I'm able to answer that question."

Officials said privately they were wary of revealing if they had an "ongoing" source near Aung San Suu Kyi's place of confinement, reportedly in a Burma military barracks.

"We had credible information on the day that we put out the statement that she was starting a hunger strike, what I don't know is if we have gotten further reporting after that," said a senior official.

Burma said Aung San Suu Kyi was physically well and charged that US claims that she was on a hunger strike were the result of "spin doctors."

"The sudden but well-concerted appearance of a manufactured piece of news relating to Aung San Suu Kyi's hunger strike is another glaring example of spin doctors at work once again," the statement said.

The US announcement came a day after Burma's new prime minister, General Khin Nyunt, delivered his seven-point plan for the country's shift toward what he said was "democracy."

Thailand, which has expressed support for the plan, said on the basis of its intelligence reports it did not believe Aung San Suu Kyi was on hunger strike.

Since issuing its statement Sunday, the State Department has consistently defended it.

"It was not done without a lot of thought or on the basis of flimsy information," an official said Wednesday.

Influential US Sen. Dianne Feinstein became the latest senior US political figure to back Aung San Suu Kyi, arrested on a tour of northern Burma, after what supporters said was a clash with "thugs" sponsored by the junta. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US warns North Korea

WASHINGTON—The United States delivered a veiled warning to North Korea on Thursday, saying it would face "consequences" if it made good on an alleged threat to conduct a nuclear test. The official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, stopped short of saying the United States would pull out of a six-nation bid to end the nuclear crisis should such a test take place. But he hinted that such a move would deal a serious blow to hopes of finding a negotiated way out of the crisis which erupted last October. *AFP*

Dem hopefuls slam Bush

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—The Democratic presidential hopefuls differed on trade and taxes at their second debate on Thursday, but saved their harshest attacks for President George W. Bush's leadership in Iraq and on the economy. Rather than putting the surging Howard Dean on the hot seat, the Democrats vying for the right to challenge Bush in 2004 spent the bulk of their time condemning the president's leadership and touting their own proposals. "This president is a miserable failure," said Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt, using a phrase he repeated frequently during a 90-minute debate at the University of New Mexico. "This president has to lead and he's not leading." Unlike a contentious first debate in South Carolina in May, the Democratic hopefuls largely concentrated on Bush. Former Vermont governor Dean and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, who have dueled atop the polls in New Hampshire, hardly addressed each other. Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman went after Dean on trade and taxes, and several candidates pointed out their differences on taxes and health care, but there was little fire to the debate as the 2004 campaign moves into a more intense phase ahead of the first contests in January. *Reuters*

India to get Israeli arms

NEW DELHI/JERUSALEM—India aims to boost its military edge over nuclear-armed rival Pakistan as it races to close a deal with Israel worth more than $1 billion for an airborne early warning radar system. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is due in India on Sunday—the first visit by an Israeli leader in 11 years—and officials say the two sides could sign the contract for the sale of three Phalcon radar systems during the trip. "There is every possibility of a signing," an Indian defense ministry official said, but he would not give further details. On Wednesday, the Indian cabinet cleared a $1.7 billion deal with Britain's BAE systems for military trainer planes, ending almost 20 years of on-off negotiations. The Israeli radars mounted on a Russian aircraft would be the biggest weapons deal since Israel and India established diplomatic ties in 1992, and would bring large parts of Pakistani airspace under Indian surveillance. *Reuters*

Plane ban on bottles

CANBERRA—All bottles including duty-free alcohol should be banned from airplanes because they could be used as fire bombs and other weapons, a terrorism expert said Friday. Australian National University's Prof. Clive Williams told a government inquiry into aviation security that both glass and plastic bottles could be turned into weapons. "I don't think passengers should be permitted to carry bottles... containing liquid onto aircraft (and) we should ban duty-free bottles," said Williams, who heads the university's terrorism studies. "Broken bottles make very good weapons." He said bottles of alcohol could be lit and used like Molotov cocktails. The Flight Attendants Association of Australia agreed with the idea of a bottle ban but foresaw practical problems. "Not selling duty-free to passengers on departure would be a difficult step to implement," association spokesperson Guy Maclean told the inquiry. *AP*

Afghan-US offensive ends

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—A major joint Afghan-US offensive against hundreds of suspected Taliban dug into the mountains of southeast Afghanistan has finished with around 124 militants killed, Afghan officials said Thursday. Up to 1,000 Afghan soldiers supported by US troops and aircraft had been engaged for more than a week in the major operation against suspected Taliban and al-Qaida bases in the mountains of Daychopan district of Zabul province, 300 km southwest of Kabul. US-led coalition Special Operation Forces and 10th Mountain Division troops backed by aircraft had Saturday launched a fresh offensive in the Daychopan area, dubbed Operation Mountain Viper. *AFP*

Doctor draws 77 years

SAO PAULO, Brazil—A Brazilian court sentenced a doctor to 77 years in prison for the ritual mutilation and killing of young boys in a remote Amazon town over a decade ago, a prosecutor in the case said on Thursday. Anisio Ferreira de Souza received 57 years for the gruesome killings of three boys and 20 more years for the attempted murder of two other boys who escaped from their captors after having their sexual organs removed. Thirteen years after the first killings, the trial is being closely followed as a test of Brazil's ability to bring justice to remote areas where the law may be under the control of the local elite. *Reuters*

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Study strengthens theory SARS jumped from animals to humans in south China

BEIJING—New research has added weight to the theory a SARS-like virus jumped from animals to humans in south China, highlighting fears of another outbreak of the deadly disease.

Scientists in Hong Kong and China's southern Guangdong province compared samples from SARS patients with a SARS-like coronavirus taken from animals eaten as delicacies, including rodent-like palm civets, in a live animal market in Shenzhen.

They concluded that the animals had a coronavirus that was 99.8 percent identical to the virus that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in people, Science journal reported in this week's edition.

"Our findings suggest that the markets provide a venue for the animal viruses to amplify and transmit to new hosts, including humans and this is critically important from the point of view of public health," the research said.

As well as civet cats, the virus was also found in a raccoon dog and a ferret badger.

They also found people who worked at the market carrying coronaviruses but without any sign of illness.

However, the study, conducted by scientists from the University of Hong Kong and the Guangdong Center for Disease Control and Prevention, stressed that there are still important unanswered questions about the route of transmission of the virus to humans.

"It is not, however, clear whether any one or more of these animals are the natural reservoir in the wild," the report said.

"It is conceivable that civets, raccoon dogs and ferret badgers were all infected from another, as yet, unknown animal source, which in fact is the true reservoir in nature."

One of the researchers, Guan Yi, said in Hong Kong Friday the real significance of the research was that "it has further confirmed that SARS is a zoonosis disease," meaning that it jumps from animals to humans.

SARS first surfaced in Guangdong last November before spreading to more than 30 countries around the world, infecting some 8,000 people and killing more than 900.

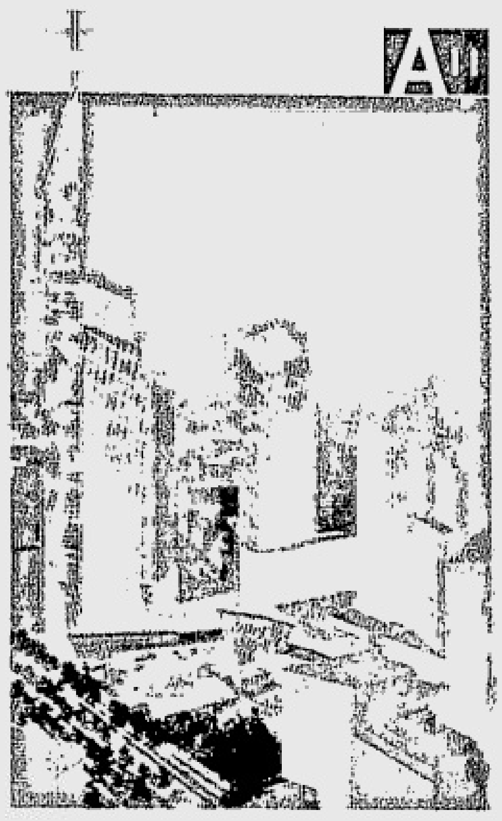
Pinning down the animal source has gained urgency since health officials warned there is a chance it may be seasonal and could re-emerge in the cooler months.

Rumors of new cases are already swirling in China, where the government Friday urged people to get vaccinated against influenza amid concerns that flu symptoms will further fuel SARS fears.

Authorities in Guangdong banned trade in wildlife in late May in response to SARS although the prohibition on trade in 54 types of wildlife has since been lifted.

Despite the concern of scientific and medical experts, wild civet cats are still openly on sale in southern China, wildlife protection group Animals Asia Foundation said Friday and urged the government to take firmer action.

"At a time when experts are warning that the SARS virus could be widespread in wildlife and may re-emerge this coming winter, we urge the central government to listen to the experts and take action which will benefit both people and animals alike," said the pressure group's founder Jill Robinson. *AFP*



ARCHITECT Daniel Libeskind's plan for the rebuilt World Trade Center site in New York, shown in an architect's drawing, was announced as the chosen plan Feb. 27. AP

WTC architect fights for his vision

By Karen Matthews

NEW YORK—When his plan for rebuilding the World Trade Center won an international contest in February, architect Daniel Libeskind became the public face of the world's most emotionally freighted real estate project.

His scheme preserved the lost trade center's foundation and invoked the date of American independence with a tower that would rise 539 meters. And Libeskind, a dynamo in designer glasses, seemed the perfect salesman for a challenging work of architecture.

Since then, a tug of war with trade center developer Larry Silverstein threatened to push Libeskind into a secondary role. Politicians, business people and victims' relatives promoted their agendas, and it seemed unlikely at times that the plan by Libeskind's Berlin-based office would be realized in any recognizable form.

But Libeskind has fought for his vision and, so far at least, has managed to keep it largely intact.

50 million votes

"Look, you have to represent what you believe in," he said in an interview with The Associated Press at his firm's new world headquarters in lower Manhattan. "And you have to remember that this design was selected... not in a boardroom by some elite backroom dealers. It was done in a transparent process with all the citizens of New York and 50 million people voting on the Internet.

"So my responsibility is to that great constituency."

Born in Lodz, Poland, to parents who had survived the Holocaust, Libeskind studied music as a child. The family emigrated to Israel and then to the United States, where Libeskind studied at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. He did graduate work in the history and theory of architecture at Essex University in Britain.

Libeskind was known as an academic until 1989, when he won a competition to design the Jewish Museum in Berlin. That project took 12 years and elevated him into the ranks of the world's leading architects.

Now, Libeskind is busy all over the world, with designs ranging from a new wing at the Denver, Colorado, Art Museum and a long-delayed addition to London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

Slight of build, with a bristle of graying hair, the 57-year-old speaks in a rapid staccato as he discusses his plans in a makeshift conference room, where a door on two sawhorses is the table.

When he unveiled his design in December 2002, Libeskind spoke of arriving in New York as a teenage immigrant and seeing the skyline. His zeal for repairing that skyline—scarred by an unthinkable attack on Sept. 11, 2001—has not waned.

"I did not approach it as just another project, another bunch of buildings and commissions," he said. "I appreciate what New York stands for. I appreciate what happened to it... It's something that happened to me. I was attacked."

Convoluted process

Though the choice of Libeskind seems natural, the process was convoluted.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the bistate agency that owns the trade center site, and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the city-state agency created to redevelop it, released six plans in summer 2002 that were greeted with widespread derision.

The agencies then put out a call for cutting-edge architects from around the world to submit ideas.

Eugenie Birch, a professor of planning at the University of Pennsylvania who was on the selection jury, said Libeskind's selection as a finalist was unanimous.

"Everyone considered him one of the most influential and important thinkers about urban design in the world," she said.

Libeskind's design was chosen in February. He spoke of "optimism in the aftermath of tragedy," and his plan was seen as a bold attempt to reconcile the demands of memory and commerce.

Silverstein, who signed a 99-year lease on the twin towers just weeks before they were destroyed, required 900,000 sq. m. of office space to replace what was lost. *AP*

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Coup talk

EDITORIAL

SINCE the failed July 27 coup, a new wave of coup plot rumors has been sweeping over the country, driven mainly by unverified, if not unverifiable, information disseminated through the anonymity of text messages.

The rumor has not only rattled the already jittery market but also prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to warn the nation that her government is determined to crush a new power grab. She said the government had the support of the armed forces and the bureaucracy.

Coup rumors are bad enough. But security authorities only made the situation worse by confirming there is such a plot, in their effort to reassure the public that the government is not going to be taken by surprise.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said the government has identified the "destabilizing elements of society" plotting to grab power but belittled these groups' ability to mobilize a large mass of people to give a coup popular backing. He did not identify these "elements" and merely said, "There is a political component, there are some NGOs, so it's a hodgepodge group."

It fell upon National Security Adviser Roilo Golez to identify a group of generals, who, according to the prolific rumor mill, had resigned to pave the way for a stampede in the military to withdraw support from the government. All the generals mentioned denied involvement in a plot. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya affirmed that he had heard the rumor, including the alleged plan to install Vice President Teofisto Guingona as head of a military junta. Guingona has emphatically belied the report. And given his political record, Guingona would not be stupid as to get involved in a plot from which he has nothing to gain politically. He very well knows that a junta is not his milieu. A cabal of generals or military officers will have no use for civilian fronts, who, if the history of coups is considered, would soon be bumped off in a military-led dictatorship.

Golez was not reassuring, however, when he said that the government "is taking very firm preemptive action and so far has been able to neutralize the destabilization effort." He went on to say such efforts were continuing, which means that before the country settles down for the 2004 elections, we can expect new coup rumors to fuel political tensions and nervousness.

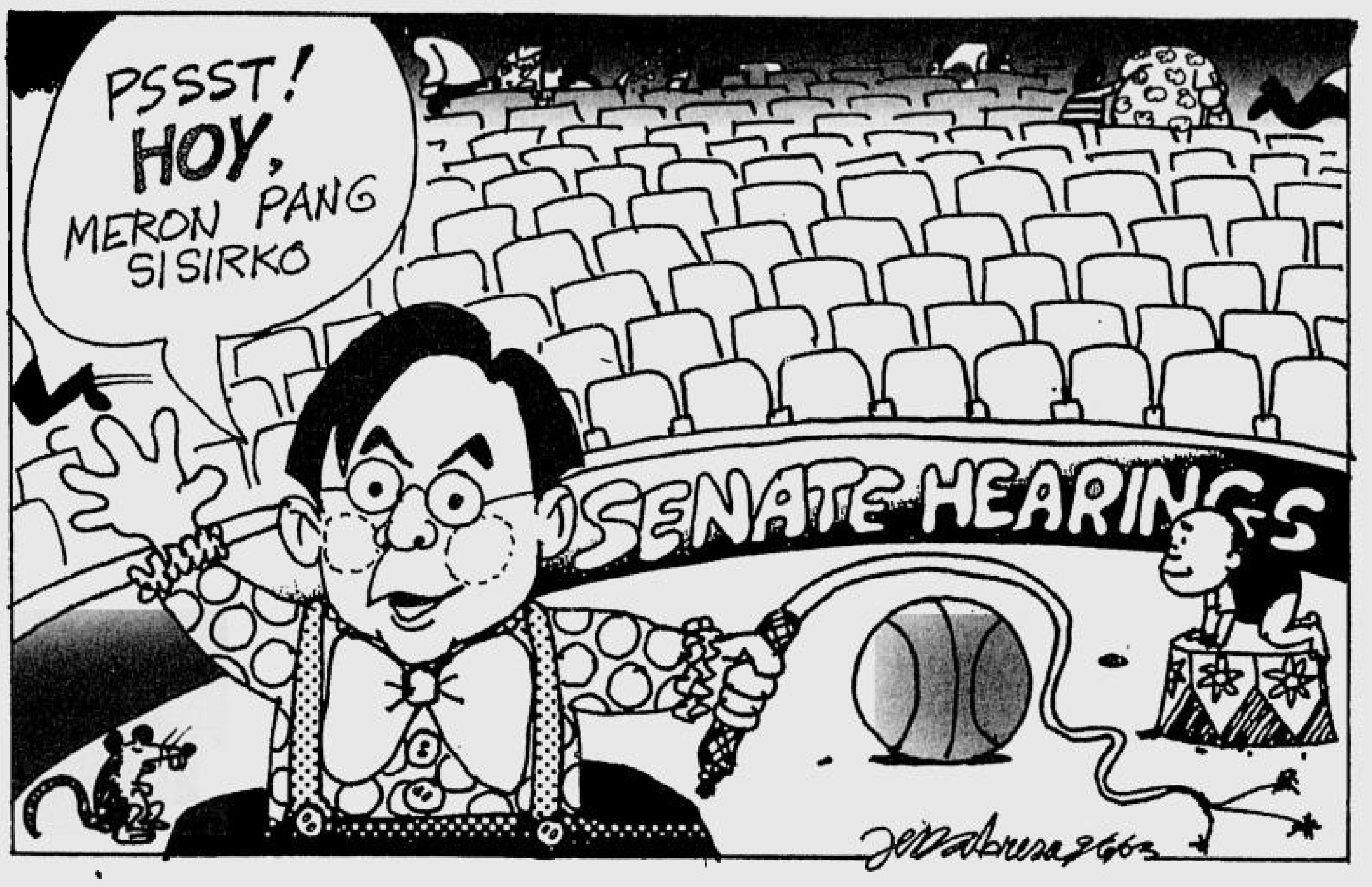
It strikes us odd that, while the authorities assert that they have taken preemptive measures, there is no evidence that the government has acted to nip the plots in the bud. To be sure, Golez, Lina and the military intelligence service then headed by Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus got wind of the July 27 coup and their warning of clandestine military movements relayed to the President and military authorities was instrumental in quelling the siege at Oakwood. But Golez and Lina should have taken a lesson from the events of July 27. There is little comfort in knowing that they have not acted quickly to preempt action by the plotters this time around. If they know that meetings of officers and politicians have been taking place and that generals have been offered fabulous sums of money to join "destabilization" plots, why have no arrests been made?

They say that they are waiting for overt acts to take place before taking action. But if they wait too long, they risk losing the initiative to the plotters.

As the authorities tell it, the plot calls for breaking the chain of command, and once military defections escalate, this will precipitate the collapse of government. The plot, as described by the authorities, assumes as given the events necessary for a takeover, such as widespread popular demonstrations against the government and in support of military intervention.

The problem with these assumptions is that they seek to repeat the Edsa II scenario. Edsa II was set against a background of widespread discontent over the corruption and incompetence of the Estrada administration. No such deep-seated and widespread unrest exists today, although the administration has come under attack for corruption in the Senate, with the President's husband as the principal target.

But if there is any lesson previous failed coup attempts can teach us, it is that any military intervention that has no backing from the civilian sector is bound to fail.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SENATE HEARINGS

The Arroyo case as smoke screen

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DURING THE LATE '40s, my father, after whom that street in Sampaloc, Manila was named, was the minority floor leader of what was then called the Municipal Board of Manila. He so dominated the proceedings that on one occasion then Mayor Manuel de la Fuente said in exasperation to his Liberal Party councilors on the board, *"Kung anong pisi ang ibigay sa inyo ni Vicente, siya naman ninyong inililipad."* Roughly translated, that meant that my father's colleagues, although in the majority, were acting according as they were maneuvered by their lone Nacionalista opponent.

The leadership exhibited by my father reminds me of the way Sen. Panfilo Lacson is manipulating his colleagues in the Senate, but in the opposite way. My father's leadership was constructive, aimed at preventing abuses that otherwise could be committed by the Liberal majority in his chamber. Lacson's leadership, if it might be so called, is destructive and negative, aimed at using his colleagues to suit his own purposes and further impair the image of the Senate as the highest legislative body in this country.

Many may not have noticed that on that Monday two weeks ago that Lacson began his series of privileged speeches against Mike Arroyo, the Senate was supposed to continue deliberation on the recommendations of the three committees that had investigated the charges filed against him for drug trafficking, kidnapping and other serious offenses. Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, as chair of the lead investigating committee, had finished his sponsorship of Committee Report 237, but deliberation thereon was averted when Lacson delivered his refutation and asked for a restudy of the report.

Some say that Lacson timed his speech against Arroyo to prevent the scheduled debate on the report. He succeeded, because the bombshells he exploded that day called for the prior attention of the Senate. The trouble is that the exposés he made then, and the other revelations that followed this week, have proved a dud from the legal point of view; they cannot stand in a court of law. Not being a lawyer, Lacson does not understand the niceties of legal evidence and, notwithstanding the advice of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and possibly of his own lawyers, has continued to hurl his reckless charges.

In rejecting such advice, Lacson has, according to Arroyo, hidden behind the "skirt of parliamentary immunity," probably in an oblique attack against his accuser's manliness. Arroyo has dared him to file his charges in court, but Lacson has ignored the challenge, leading many to conclude that he is merely using the Arroyo charges as a smoke screen to conceal the findings against him in Committee Report No. 237. Deliberation on this matter has begun at last but is understandably taking a back seat to the Arroyo case.

No wonder even Sen. Robert Jaworski has expressed outrage over the conduct of the investigation, saying there are so many clowns in the Senate. (Including some of its members?) Senator Barbers has warned that he will withdraw his committee from the investigation if Lacson is unable to present credible evidence of his accusations instead of using the Senate as a forum to vent his rage against the Arroyos with nothing more than empty conclusions based on wild conjectures and inaccurate information.

Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, chair of the powerful Blue Ribbon Committee, is himself thinking of ending the investigation next Monday if Lacson still fails to submit admissible evidence of his accusations. Sen. Edgardo S. Angara fears, however, that such a closure might feed the public suspicion that the Senate is covering up for the President and her husband.

I do not believe that the charges against Mike Arroyo should be dismissed at this point for lack of the necessary supporting evidence. The accusations are serious enough to deserve a further and deeper probe. Arroyo has himself filed libel charges against Lacson for the privileged remarks he delivered in the Senate but which he allegedly repeated in a press interview outside the halls of Congress. Lacson, for his part, has not reacted in kind.

The alleged romantic relationship between Mike Arroyo and Victoria Toh is a private matter that cannot be investigated "in aid of legislation." Lacson should not have raised it in the first place, out of respect for the parties' right to privacy if not also for the truth. His innuendoes were not in the best of taste and constituted conduct unbecoming a senator and a gentleman. The Senate does not—or should not—entertain true confessions or salacious pictures that have no bearing on the public welfare. These may be material for the telenovelas but not a Senate investigation.

And while they are meditating on the mystery of Jose Pidal and the credibility of Udong Mahusay, may I remind the honorable members of the Senate about Committee Report No. 237 on the charges against their colleague, who seems to be manipulating them into forgetting that long-pending case. They should give equal importance to that urgent matter which, unlike the Arroyo case, is based on substantial and admissible evidence.

SB 2553 spells death for agrarian reform

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT is irony supreme, qualifying for one of those only-in-the-Philippines label. While the Pidal-Arroyo-Lacson (PAL) issue captured everyone's attention, Senate Bill 2553 passed quietly last Sept. 3 on third reading. If approved, it assures the demise of agrarian reform in the country and represents a major setback in the war against poverty. Yet, even as farmers' groups all over the country are in an agony of despair, it has not made any headlines.

Almost two months ago on July 12, I wrote a column about this bill, which I likened to a Trojan horse: it looks like a fantastic gift, but it hides forces of destruction. SB 2553, the Farmland as Collateral (FAC) Bill, is touted as the answer to the country's and every small farmer's prayers. It corrects a major flaw in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL): Sec. 27, which prohibits for 10 years, or at least seriously constrains, beneficiaries from transferring, selling or conveying the land awarded to them.

Whatever the benefits of Sec. 27, the cost has been high. It has prevented beneficiaries from using their land as collateral (except to the LandBank), putting them between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, their normal source of credit—their landlords—was no longer available. On the other hand, applying to private lending institutions was not an option, assuming the banks were disposed to lend, because they could not use their land as collateral. The alternatives were unattractive: they could hope that the government support services mandated by CARL would reach them—studies show that beneficiaries who received such services indeed improved their incomes—but the government's record in this regard has been spotty at best. And failing that, they would go to the curb market, where they were at the mercy of well-connected loan sharks who could get around the law.

Which is why President Macapagal-Arroyo, from her first State of the Nation Address, asked for the passage of a FAC bill. Well, she is getting it. SB 2553 removes the 10-year wait and trims the powers of the Department of Agrarian Reform, and adds Sec. 27-A, which provides that "The land awarded to the farmer-beneficiary may be mortgaged to any person, natural or juridical."

The bill is authored principally by Sen. Serge Osmeña. Although Senators Jun Magsaysay, Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro are named as co-authors because they had their own versions, the consolidated bill was mainly Osmeña's. While it was passed by a vote of 14 to 3, one of the three who opposed it was Recto, one of the "co-authors." The other two were Senators Joker Arroyo and Francis Pangilinan.

So why should we be concerned about SB 2553? After all, it corrects a major flaw of CARL. Moreover, as Osmeña has pointed out, the rationale behind its provisions are provided by findings of a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) with agricultural economist Cristina David as principal investigator, plus a discussion paper authored by Dean Raul Fabella of the UP School of Economics, and as if that were not enough, the pronouncements of Peruvian Hernando de Soto on property rights. That's pretty heavy artillery.

True, a major flaw in CARL is being corrected, but it also contains a poison pill: Section 27-A provides that lands awarded under the CARL.... may be sold, transferred or conveyed to any person, **"and such person shall not be subject to any limitation on the total area of lands he may own."**

That one sentence can sweep away the hard-earned fruits of agrarian reform, because land can now be reconsolidated. Big landowners whose lands have been reformed, *hacenderos* who have been fighting tooth and nail to postpone agrarian reform, have no more worries. They can get their land back. They don't even have to go through lending to beneficiaries and then foreclosing, they can get it on a silver platter by buying it from banks which foreclose (even retroactively on usurious loans) on mortgages, and which would rather sell to big buyers than small buyers, to save on transaction costs. Sure, there will be a land market, but it is one where the small farmers are shut out.

In short, SB 2553 does not just amend CARL. It kills the agrarian reform program.

But shouldn't the opinions of economists Cristina David and Raul Fabella count for something? Of course, they should. But the Osmeña bill uses their analyses selectively, ignoring important recommendations. David and Fabella want CARL to succeed (they don't want it killed) and neither are in favor of reconsolidation, recommending progressive land taxation to deter it. Fabella's recommendations in this regard are very specific: (1) a progressive tax on land based on hectarage and prohibitive beyond a maximum area (example: zero annual tax on farms of 1-3 hectares, rising to 20 percent of market value for farms of, say, 500 hectares and above; (2) a graduated capital gains tax on sale of CARL-awarded land; and (3) a conversion tax on agricultural lands that are converted to other uses. The funds arising from these will be used to finance CARL-related services.

Osmeña has also ignored the suggestions of the NAPC, DAR, DSWD, Neda and the farmers. Unless the bicameral committee removes the poison pill in Osmeña's bill, President Macapagal must veto it. For the sake of the farmers, for the sake of the war against poverty, for the sake of the country.

Statesmanship

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VICE President Teofisto Guingona rose 10 feet tall when he recently stated that he would not be party to the destabilization plot being cooked up by enemies of the state. Guingona said he would reject any offer to head the government following the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, after it was reported that a group of generals was planning to mount a coup. Guingona said that while he and the President have their differences, he stands squarely behind her and the Constitution and would not support extra-constitutional means to replace her.

That was statesmanship on Guingona's part, but he must also realize that the plotters would never keep him in power as they want it for themselves.

I recall that during the 1989 failed coup attempt by Gregorio Honasan, Supreme Court Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan also publicly rebuffed the rebels' offer for him to take over the government. His statesmanship proved comforting to many citizens who held—and still hold—a military takeover anathema.

* * *

There appears to be a concerted effort by various political and military elements to destabilize the country for various reasons, among them, as Senate President Franklin Drilon pointed out, to convince US President Bush not to come here next month, which would be a big blow to GMA. All patriotic citizens must protect the republic against unscrupulous plots to destabilize it. Change can be effected through the elections which are less than eight months away, but certain nefarious elements won't wait because they have their own agenda and they don't care if they bring down the economy.

As founding trustee of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, the oldest NGO devoted solely to working for the welfare of the common soldiers' widows and orphans, I enjoin patriotic military elements to reject offers of immoral bribes, no matter how tempting, for them to join any coup attempt. They should realize that nothing good can come out of such misplaced adventurism and they will only destroy their own and their children's future if they join it.

* * *

Drilon and Senators Joker Arroyo and Robert Barbers stressed during last Tuesday's hearing that unless Sen. Panfilo Lacson produces the evidence to support his allegations against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, the hearings cannot continue. Until now Lacson has not submitted a single piece of evidence to support his claims. Drilon asked him to show the original of the check he showed during his second exposé, so that its dorsal side could be examined to find out who encashed it. But Lacson has not done so. There is a growing sentiment among the senators and the public that the hearings may have reached a dead end, so the courts should take over. As Star legal columnist Jose C. Sison put it, all Lacson has offered are two affidavits that have no probative value as they contradict each other. Moreover, the banks he named would naturally invoke the Bank Secrecy Law and the amended Anti-Money Laundering Act, both of which protect the confidentiality of bank accounts. Already Makati and Chinatown businessmen are very nervous about the way this banking rule seems to have been violated and they're upset with the banks which may have leaked some documents.

* * *

Compounding citizens' worry was a statement made by Sen. Edgardo Angara in answer to Senator Arroyo's insistence on evidence. Angara said that the Senate is not a court of law but "a court of public opinion," so it does not need incontrovertible proof of guilt like the courts. He said it's the task of the Senate to dig up evidence.

I queried Drilon about this statement and he disputed it, saying that while it's true that the Senate is not a court of law, there is still need for the accuser to present "a modicum of proof" so that it won't look like he is engaging in character assassination or witch-hunting. I agree. Angara's statement tends to encourage irresponsibility among the lawmakers.

* * *

A motley group of politicians and Palace officials met for the first time yesterday to do some serious planning for the political summit proposed by Drilon. Those who attended were Lakas co-chair Speaker Jose de Venecia, who has just wound up the successful meeting of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace here, Sen. John Osmeña, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, presidential political liaison Gabby Claudio, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, Representatives Butch Abad of LP, Agapito Aquino of LDP, Teddy Boy Locsin of PDP-Laban, Tet Garcia of Lakas and party-list Rep. Etta Rosales. Senators Nene Pimentel and Vicente Sotto sent word that they want to participate. The group outlined five key points that begin with laying down an atmosphere for conducive dialogue—be it a "ceasefire" or what Osmeña terms a "tranquilizer" for those who can no longer sleep due to political worries. The summit will call for the broad participation of political groups but with "manageable, un-ambitious goals" and a "limited and doable agenda" that includes "Honest, Orderly, Peaceful Elections" in 2004 (this should assure those who are worried about "No-El" in 2004). But the most significant points arrived at were the summit's unqualified support for duly constituted authority, and that both the Senate and the House are committed to constitutional change and agree on the need to amend the Charter, although the group left open the thorny aspect of how to effect Charter change.

The importance of these last two points cannot be overstressed. It's crucial that various political groups reiterate their support for duly constituted authority and their openness to Charter change. The mode can be debated, but those pushing for a constituent assembly are very confident that this is the best way to answer an urgent need in our trying times.

Filipinos have made up minds on family planning

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CAGAYAN DE ORO—One of the greatest joys of traveling around the country is the chance it gives one to "touch base" with friends one sees only rarely, or at least not as often as one would wish.

This trip to Cagayan is even more pleasurable because of two women, both sisters in our women's group Pilipina, who went through serious health crises but have emerged from them whole and still fired with passion and energy for our shared cause.

One of them, Dina Anitan, recently went through an operation to excise a tumor in one kidney as a result of which she lost that kidney. I mention her case here because we at Pilipina helped raise funds for her hospitalization and this gives me a chance to thank everyone—sisters in Pilipina, friends, government officials—who gave assistance or went out of their way to make sure Dina got the best of care.

Dina, who has been involved in NGO work for most of her life, is now national coordinator of Wand, or the Women's Action Network for Development. Our friends and donors will be glad to know that she is back at work, with renewed fervor and—yes!—a slimmer figure. (Only other women would know how much of a blessing that is!)

My other friend, Marvi Lachica, faced quite a slew of health complications, as a result of diabetes, a few years ago. The most serious of these was impending kidney failure, for which she needed a kidney transplant. We helped raise funds for this procedure, and though she is still on medication to make sure her donated kidney isn't rejected, and thus needs to take precautions against infection, she is back at work.

* * *

I MENTION Dina and Marvi not just to keep everyone who had prayed for them, followed up their cases and lent all forms of support up-to-date, but also to highlight the plight of NGO workers like them.

NGO work, I'm afraid, pays mainly psychic income, since salaries in this field cannot match those in the private sector. Worse, there is no job security and benefits are minimal at best.

Dina's and Marvi's cases, as well as those of others in the development field, have led some to begin planning a health insurance program, over and above the usual state-provided benefits such as from Philhealth, for NGO workers. In one instance, members of a community-based organization have formed a multipurpose cooperative in which monthly contributions are pooled and lent out at very reasonable rates for health emergencies.

It seems only reasonable that those whose work involves organizing communities, raising awareness about important social and political issues, and indeed, transforming societies, should also use these skills to look after themselves and their families. NGO work may indeed be a form of apostolate, much like a religious vocation, but it shouldn't result in impoverishment or an early death. That's an unnecessary sacrifice.

* * *

A REPORT in this paper the other day bared the results of a survey, which reinforce findings of many previous surveys, on the reasons women and couples use or do not use contraception. Not surprisingly, the survey shows that religion is cited as a reason by only a small percentage of respondents. As UP Prof. Alex Herrin pointed out, researchers and policy-makers have known this since the 1960s.

According to the report, the most often cited reasons for not using a family planning method are: desire to have more children, health concerns especially fear of side effects and other factors that may lead them to believe they have no need of protection, including age or difficulty in getting pregnant, infrequent sex and menopause. Only 2.3 percent of the respondents in the 2002 family planning survey conducted by the NSO cited religion as a reason for not using family planning.

One of the insights that can be gleaned from these survey results is that, at the individual, grassroots level, the Church hardly exerts any power or influence over people's reproductive decisions. And it seems the Church is aware of this, since they have chosen to concentrate their fire instead on officials and legislators, seeking to carry out by way of policy and programs what they have failed to do from the pulpit and through face-to-face interactions.

* * *

IT seems clear that if—and this is a big IF—government wants to help couples achieve their desired family size, they should address people's health concerns, especially myths and disinformation on the side effects of certain methods. The first step, it seems to me, is to train health providers to listen, and to prove to their clients that they only have people's good health in mind.

What is happening right now is that the government, instead of addressing the public's concerns and improving the quality of counseling in health centers, as well as assuring access to the range of safe and legal methods of family planning, is constricting the choices available to couples and women.

The Department of Health is pouring its family planning resources on a single method of family planning: natural family planning, and just the so-called sympto-thermal method at that. This is obviously a concession to the Catholic hierarchy who disapprove of all other methods of family planning. But it seems to me a most undemocratic means of imposing through policy a program that is not supported by public opinion.

When it comes to conscience it seems fairly obvious that Filipinos have long since resolved the conflict. They see nothing wrong with using family planning when they need or want it. They only ask that the methods available to them be safe, healthy, effective and convenient.

Filipino Heritage Festival

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE CELEBRATION of Filipino Heritage commenced this week with the Misa Pamana at the Manila Cathedral, highlighting excerpts from ecclesiastical compositions of the 18th century to the present prepared by Dr. Anton Juan, creative director of the festival. The celebration, slated to last till the end of the month, is spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts with the participation of the private sector. The concept is, of course, ambitious and will probably not see its zenith until a good three or four years hence, but it's a start.

Since the French Spring has been celebrated in June these past four years and the Spanish are claiming October for a salvo to their own cultural traditions, it seemed about time that we commemorated our own heritage and had some fun with it, which is what celebrations should be, don't you agree? The difference in concept lies in holding events in heritage sites for the purpose of raising awareness and hopefully ensuring their future preservation.

It would have been nice to have had the money and support to embrace all the provinces the first time around, but give the project time. We did try to see Local Government Secretary Joey Lina five times to get his support and to reach out to other cultural agencies, but as someone once said, it was "null and void." The man wasn't interested. Perhaps the next DILG secretary will have a wider view and appreciation of Filipino culture.

We do have Bulacan, with the Bulacan Foundation Food and Folk Arts Festival at Barasoain Church from the 11th to the 18th; Tilaw sa Pagkaon Nan Surigaonon Food Festival in Surigao del Norte on Sept. 3; Bonok-Bonok Maradjao Karadjao Festival (Street Pageantry) also in Surigao on Sept. 9; street dancing in Sultan Kudarat on Sept. 18 (Talakudong Festival); and a Congress on the Protection of Cultural Heritage Against Illegal Trafficking in Legazpi, Albay. The celebration did have to include lectures, conventions and seminars about conservation and maintenance as well but the *tianggehan* at Plaza Miranda also offers lighthearted fun. Culture was never meant to be in an ivory tower nor did it mean paintings costing multimillions. It was meant to be part and parcel of our lives and not esoteric stuff that the majority does not understand and could care less about.

What should distinguish the celebration of Filipino Heritage is the effort to get the private sector to support the project. If the NCCA is losing its share of the travel tax or will receive a greatly reduced percentage, it better find partners to bring cultural awareness to the people. Being hostage to the whims of certain congressional representatives every time budget time rears its lousy head is certainly not going to help. Rumors are that a husband-and-wife tandem promised to make life miserable for the NCCA.

To her lasting credit, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed the month of May every year as National Heritage Month in the spirit of celebrating our multi-cultural traditions and heritage sites, structures and landscapes. Originally the festivities should have started last May but between SARS, terrorist threats and attacks and the war in Iraq, we were advised to postpone the celebration. Waiting one year seemed just too long, so in the meantime, here's Act One.

It would have been wonderful to address all segments of society and perhaps this will be possible in time. It always seemed to me that the Chinese and the Muslims were never mainstream and seldom included in major events. This time, the Muslims will be participating in the Tiangge sa Plaza Miranda and their colorful *vintas* will be sailing down Manila Bay, courtesy of Aboitiz and the Department of Tourism, to close the festival on the 28th. We hope that next year we can have a celebration in the Binondo Plaza as part and parcel of Filipino heritage. We may also be able to celebrate the Parian legacy at Arroceros Park in a month when the weather is more cooperative.

Be sure to visit the Ramon Valera Retrospective at the National Museum which is meant to be a tribute not just to the late designer and artist but to all the *liliperas* and *bordaderas* who have created such works of art down the ages. We also hope that clothes and costumes will be seen as another art form and designers as artists.

This month you can also see an exhibit of the works of the Gamaba awardees at Rustan's in Makati which will run from the 15th to the 21st. It will include a lecture by Dr. Norma Respicio on textile tradition and textile weavers' demos.

Next time we will certainly make a try for ShoeMart. I still think we should have trunk shows, what with all that talent that can be tapped.

There are photographic competitions that you can view at Edsa Shangrila Plaza, starting on the 11th, and walking tours by the Heritage Conservation Society, lectures on herbal medicine and *anting-antings* at Plaza Miranda on the 6th, and an exhibition of the works of National Artists at the NCCA lobby that will run until the 30th.

A lot of fine-tuning will have to be done, but the first step has been taken. Wish us all luck.

Food for the soul

YOUNG BLOOD

Deanna Kathrina Maranion

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THIS is an attempt to share a piece of my mind with the world.

Some people sing in a choir. I do that, too. Others play in a band. I do that, too. Most people write. I do that, too.

When I write, I spread the word to a tight circle of friends. However, change is imperative. I'm 26 and it's about time that I attempted to extend the radius of my influence.

Politics and current events are out of my league. I have been too preoccupied with aspiring for personal and professional growth. Physiology and physiotherapy are too heavy for a maiden voyage, though I have a lot to say about them. Music isn't meant to be written about, but listened to and experienced, and I do not intend to break a major philosophy in life at this point. Art is too broad; I might end up being defensive about my love for Monet's search for the sun.

Random, dominant thought: reading—food for the soul? Yes, but only when chewed properly. Immortal line No. 1: "Faith is accepting that gravity is a postulate." That's from an author of the horror genre who can and does write great prose, if you look beyond the pop packaging.

This is a pretty good estimate: at least 60 percent of my life has been spent reading. Most of the reading that I have done is related to academics. The amount of reading I toted up during my undergraduate course equals all the school-related readings before that. And the amount of reading needed for my post-graduate course is twice that of all that I had to do before that. And my idea of mental rest is a 500-page paperback.

Thus, the lenses of my eyes are skewed in a hundred different places. Of course, that estimate is tainted with imagination.

Option A (repertoire for a balanced life): The Bhagavad-Gita for bus rides. A chapter of Milton a month. Kafka for imagery. Eco vitamins. Proust in the "to-read" list. Tolkien as an appetizer. Nabokov for dessert. Sting's lyrics for higher evolution.

Come to think of it, my reading buddies are mostly dead, of a different race and tradition, and typecast, at least in the existentialist tradition as must-haves. I am a typical Westernized yuppie *promdi* seeking understanding through the English language. Sigh.

Option B (for healthy living): "The Tao of Physics" for bus rides. A chapter of Cervantes a night. Morrison to feel alive. Kundera vitamins. Goethe in the "to-read" list. Salinger for lunch. Garcia Marquez for dinner. Mellon Collie and "Infinite Sadness" for stimulation.

I have read Antonio de Morga's "Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas" for a report. I do read a sprinkling of local talents outside of the must-read academic requirements. It's just that my readings in Filipino and of Filipinos are mostly from album sleeves. Our alternative and rock bands have been writing masterpieces since the 1960s. A lot of people realize this and act on this and that gives me hope.

Immortal line No. 2: "Love means never having to say you're sorry." Most people remember that from the movie, though. Reading has never been a pastime for me. It has been an integral part of each day, the only activity that I do that I need not write on a planner full of imperatives. Reading is inherent and immutable. Too bad, we are so limited by our corporeal beings. The soul craves for just one more chapter but the body shouts for respite.

Option C (for long life): Orwell for bus rides. A Steinbeck story a month. Tan for a touch of reality. Hemingway vitamins. Gilgamesh in the "to-read" list. Winterson for second breakfast. Monroe for snacks. Throwing Copper for a high,

Reading maketh a man. I can't even remember who said that. T.S. Eliot has a very significant verse on memory and I can't remember the full text. Well, who remembers all that he has read? It's easier to recall the feelings. I remember the feel of Peekay's Afrikaans in his mouth. Maybe because I have read his story twice.

Option D (daily diet): "Pugad Baboy" for breakfast. Joaquin for the main course. Bautista for the daily pill. Agoncillo in the "to-read" list. Zafra for the essential coffee break. The Juan de la Cruz Band for truth and order.

My community boasts of poets like Suarez and Manalo. A significant part of my childhood was spent reciting their most important works in community gatherings from memory. I know the history of my heritage through the words of these people. Books preserve the bloodline of the cultures of the world. It gives me a sense of belonging to an extremely diverse humanity; a reconciliation of the multitude with the singularity that I project and the individuality that I seek.

This is not a campaign for literacy because the printed word is hardly adequate to bring that into the world. This is not a justification either for the long, precious hours in bed, on the couch, under a tree, on the bus and on waiting benches.

This has been mostly about me, as usual. I write most effectively about the things I know best. I will write about writing next time.

Deanna Kathrina Maranion, 26, worked as a faculty member of the Department of Physical Therapy-College of Allied Medical Professions at the University of the Philippines Manila for five years.

THEY SAID

Forgiveness is vital

"There is no future for our country and our people without forgiveness."

—Incoming president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Archbishop Fernando Capalla

Dire consequences

"We must set aside all partisan bickering, dirty tricks below and above ground, as these could and would only contribute to one thing: the destruction of our institutions, and ultimately, tragically, our society."

—Vice President Teofisto Guingona

Typical of a politician

"Everyone knows that he is running for president in 2004. And logic tells us that it is an expected behavior for a political animal like him to do everything in his power to demolish his political enemies…"

—Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Ma. Livia Singson-De Leon said after belying claims of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that a PCSO check was deposited to an account of a "Jose Pidal"

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Look to ourselves for heroes

"WANTED: Heroes." I found this title quite intriguing as I scanned the Opinion section of Aug. 27 on INQ7.net. Part of the attraction was, perhaps, borne of the "*gasgas*" perception of this phrase, together with precisely the very real, everyday need behind it.

In a short reaction letter, Teresita Uy wrote about looking for heroes within ourselves, before looking outside. I could not agree more. In fact, I would say, before even looking for heroes, let us look for responsibility and accountability, from within.

In this day when it is old news how deep in the dumps our country is, one wonders who can bring us out of the dumps. The answer is, we and only we can.

Yet, every day, we have politicians bickering over issues borne out of partisan politics, instead of national stability, where questions on wrongdoings are answered, not with solid rebuttals, but with counteraccusations. We have legislators running as fugitives from the very state and laws they have sworn to uphold. And, on a level closer to home, licensed drivers on our streets race through lanes not their own, creating lanes to suit their preference, and, when mishaps occur, they point accusing fingers and angry diatribes at fellow commuters who just may have been in the right. Otherwise, they get out of their vehicles, scratching their heads and smiling sheepishly.

The truth is, no one is clean. And no one is without responsibility. Not me, not you, not the guy or girl next door, and not the politicians in our government. No one is perfect, but everyone can and should do his part. Before we cry out for heroes, and certainly before we lambaste our fellow Filipinos and even our civil servants, who may just be trying their honest best to do their jobs, we should look to ourselves.

It takes a little more, and yet, is a whole lot more productive than scratching our heads.

—PAOLO REYES,
paoreyes@apac.ko.com

Street basketball not a nuisance

THIS refers to a news article about the banning of street basketball courts by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

We agree that basketball should be played inside a gymnasium or covered court. The streets are for motorized vehicles, not for playing.

The truth is, the youth do not want to play basketball in the streets. Firstly, because out there the game is interrupted more often by passing vehicles. Anybody who enjoys watching a basketball game on TV gets disappointed with power interruptions; how much more a warmed-up player having to give way to a passing tricycle in the heat of a game.

Secondly, playing in the streets is risky. There's always the possibility of passing vehicles harming players and motorists, including their passengers.

If the youth do not want to play in the streets, why do basketball courts proliferate in such places? Basketball is played in the streets not because the youth are undisciplined and want to violate the law.

It is the lamentable lack of sports facilities in our communities that pushes our youth to use the streets as their playground. Barangays with basketball courts do not worry about the youth using the streets for playing. The fact remains that majority of our youth do not have access to these sports facilities.

We disagree that basketball courts in the streets cause so much traffic. Have we seen basketball courts on major highways? Or even on secondary roads? Street basketball courts are put up in the least traveled roads for obvious reasons. And if a road by chance is suddenly used to decongest traffic in major streets, the youth themselves will place the basketball court somewhere else, in some place away from traffic.

The MMDA only sees traffic and violation of law in street basketball courts. It should instead appreciate the creative attitude and perseverance of the youth to put up a sport facility which the government has denied them.

By ordering the removal of basketball courts from the streets, the MMDA disregards the social benefit of such use. The sense of belongingness, camaraderie and fulfillment generated by street basketball in a community is priceless. Parents would prefer their children to play basketball all day than indulge in illegal drugs which are surprisingly accessible in all communities.

It should be pointed out that most of our best basketball players today and those before them honed their skills in some street when they were young. The MMDA order threatens to reduce basketball into a sport for the few who have access to gymnasiums and into a mere spectacle for the majority who are poor.

We agree that basketball should not be played in the streets. But before we do away with street basketball courts, please let us have them replaced with a proper basketball court.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
national president,
National Union of Students
of the Philippines;
mongpalatino@edsamail.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Why the call for a snap presidential poll

IN RESPONSE to your Sept. 1 editorial, allow us to point out that the call by Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta for a snap presidential poll was meant to jolt the Palace into realizing that its unwarranted fixation on politicking and its failure to distinguish destabilization from legitimate political dissent, have regrettably prevented President Macapagal-Arroyo from fulfilling the pledges, like modernizing our public schools, that she made in her third State of the Nation Address.

This is why Oreta welcomed the Palace's support for the proposal of Senate President Franklin Drilon to hold a political "mini-summit," to ease the deepening political tensions. She has expressed the hope that during this summit, all groups in the political spectrum could come up with a common agenda that would realize the reforms committed by Ms Macapagal for the remainder of her presidency, especially those pertaining to education. If this summit turns out to be fruitful, then Oreta sees no need for a snap election to reverse the worsening political and economic crisis gripping the country. But she has stressed that Malacañang should create a climate conducive to genuine dialogue by first putting an end to its questionable maneuvers to stifle both the opposition and the media.

Ms Macapagal's full support for the proposal of Drilon is an admission by the President no less of Oreta's observation that the situation is getting out of hand and necessitates urgent action and resolution.

That Oreta's proposal has received mixed reactions even within the opposition camp itself debunks the spin by Palace propagandists that Oreta and other opposition leaders were behind a grand conspiracy to bring down the Macapagal administration through extra-constitutional means. Oreta has always been a firm believer in due process, which is the reason why she strongly condemned the July 27 mutiny and all other extra-constitutional means to bring about a leadership change. As she had stressed, "We need another 'People Power' initiative, a coup or any other extra-constitutional escapade at this point like a bullet in the head."

—BRIAN RAYMUND YAMSUAN,
chief of staff, Office of Sen. Tessie
Aquino-Oreta, GSIS Bldg.,
Rm. 511, Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Unfair imputations

YOUR INQUIRER headline dated Aug. 21, "Lowly paid millionaires" is sending a sarcastic connotation and imputation that all those employed officials in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and Department of Public Works and Highways have ill-gotten wealth.

Such disclosure was done in haste and poor taste without first taking into consideration the irreparable damage it would bring to the reputation, integrity and dignity of an individual.

There may be truth in the allegation of the Transparency Group headed by Nick Conti that 80 percent of the BIR, BOC and DPWH executives have unexplained wealth; but publishing their names as "lowly paid millionaires" is tantamount to defaming, smearing their character and putting them in a bad light in a trial by publicity.

I agree with your editorial dated Aug. 24 that states: "But why disclose a list of millionaire officials who may or may not be corrupt, who may or may not have to explain their relative wealth, who may or may not be charged in court?"

It may sink in the public mind that all of them are corrupt and have ill-gotten wealth; albeit a few of them earned their millions through hard work, honesty and frugality.

Here is a case in point:

Dante A. Maranan, a CPA-lawyer, was one of those named in the INQUIRER's Aug. 21 issue as one of the "lowly paid millionaires." Fact is he" started working in the BOC, Davao City only last Oct. 1, 2002. Prior to his employment in the said bureaucracy, he had already a net worth of P4.1 million as stated in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities, filed in December 2002. (Please take note he was only three months with the BOC when he filed his SAL.)

Being his first cousin, I know him personally as a person whose integrity is above reproach. Working his way through college, he graduated in 1980 from De La Salle University with the degree in AB Political Science and BSC Accounting and passed the CPA board exam.

His credentials landed him a job as an auditor of Sycip, Gorres, Velayo and Co. (SGV) from 1980 to 1983 and tax consultant of the same firm in 1989.

While working to sustain his education, he took up law in the Ateneo de Manila and passed the bar with flying colors in 1988. For 14 years he practiced law. Among his clients were banks and financing institutions. He became a part-time law professor in Digos City and served as undefeated city councilor for three consecutive terms from 1992 to 2001.

In view of his perseverance, hard work and dedication, it is easy to discern that his assets are not ill-gotten. It was unfair to include his name in the list of "lowly paid millionaires."

—NEL ACUZAR,
Alitagtag, Batangas

An Englishman on Filipinos speaking the English language

AS an Englishman living for the past three months in Central Mindanao, I was intrigued by your commentary on the use of the English language in the Philippines. I hesitate to pass judgment on the use of English here.

The English are notoriously reluctant to learn foreign languages partly because they have no land borders with nations speaking other significant tongues, but mainly because their own native English has to a large extent become what we amuse ourselves to calling "the lingua franca of the world."

But the English are generally very patient with those who speak English as a second language, unlike the French who often will accept nothing short of perfection. It was for similar reasons that my wife never had enough patience to teach me Filipino or Ilonggo. Living here, though, it would seem easy enough to get by with English alone, especially when virtually all the signs, labels and forms that one encounters in the streets, shops and offices are in that language.

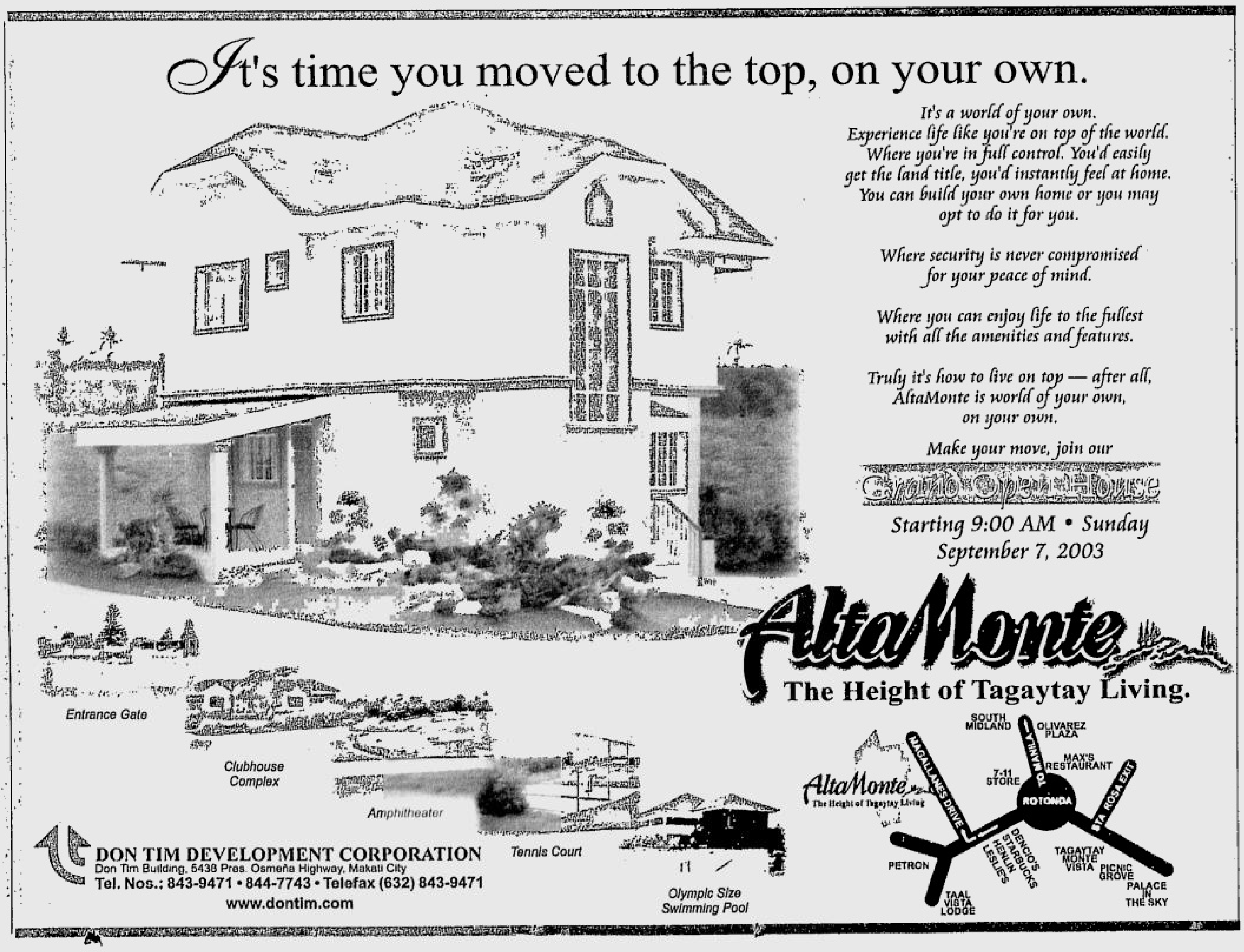
I would like to learn either the local dialect or Filipino, and it is Filipino that most people here suggest I should learn "because everyone understands it." Yet, in a recent conversation with a young man from Manila on this subject, I discovered that he could not get by on Filipino alone; half the time, he said, he had to resort to English to communicate with the people here.

It seems to me that to satisfactorily and universally establish a national language would be a herculean task. There is much to be said for the efforts such countries as Ireland and Wales make to encourage the wider use of their traditional language, not least as a means of preserving the cultural essence of their lands. But each of these languages belongs to its own region and has its roots there. Ultimately, though, I believe languages are only effectively spread or developed by religion, force of arms, or economic power; not by additional school credits or discriminatory legislation.

There may be similarities with the international use of English today and the Europe-wide use of Latin in the Middle Ages. But there appears to be little prospect of the English language fading into the realms of academia for quite some time to come, not least because of the dominance of the United States in so many areas of the world stage.

It would be sad if the Philippines were to let its competence in English diminish. I read much excellent writing in the English language in the national press of this country, and especially in the INQUIRER which I have chosen as my daily newspaper. The presentation and style make me feel very much at home. It's just the subject matter of the news that sometimes leaves me a little bemused.

—ROBERT
SWINDELLS,
131 Balo St., Barrio 1,
Marbel, Koronadal,
South Cotabato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Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

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US soldiers' GenSan visits create puzzle

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Several US servicemen have been visiting this city for a couple of weeks now, but nobody knows their real purpose.

A reliable source, however, told the INQUIRER this could be a prelude to the holding of joint military exercises between Filipino and American soldiers or the holding of another Balikatan in Central Mindanao.

Officials in Central Mindanao have been asking Malacañang to transfer the conduct of Balikatan exercises to the region.

The idea, however, was dismissed by Col. Edgardo Gurrea, deputy commanding officer of the 601st Army Brigade and head of the Joint Task Force GenSan, saying they should be the first to know if the Balikatan would be held here.

Gurrea admitted, though, that a certain Jeffrey Gieseeke arrived in the city three weeks ago along with two US military escorts.

According to the military official, Gieseeke is a warrant officer of the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) in the country.

But the visit, Gurrea explained, was part of the routine activities of Jusmag officials and had nothing to do with the rumored holding of Balikatan here.

An INQUIRER source further revealed that at least six US servicemen, led by a US Air Force captain, have been frequenting one of the classy bars here during the wee hours of the night.

During a visit at the bar located at one of the posh hotels here, the INQUIRER saw two of the US servicemen in plain clothes.

The US soldiers would hardly talk to or mingle with the people inside the bar.

But there was one thing common and noticeable about them - their congeniality and closeness to the ladies.

The city, a recipient of a multimillion-dollar aid from the American government, has been rumored as next venue for the joint US-RP military exercises.

These projects included an international standard airport, seaport, all-weather roads linking the city to other areas in Central Mindanao and the fish port.

The holding of military exercises was made possible by the Visiting Forces Agreement which was approved by the Senate and which became one of the reasons that prompted communist guerrillas to pull out of peace talks with the Macapagal administration.

The exercises gained significance in the wake of the United States' war on terror. The Philippines has been identified as one of the sites of the war on terror.

Recently, more than a hundred Filipino soldiers finished an antiterrorism course given by American servicemen in various sites in Zamboanga City.

Although officials said US soldiers were here just to train Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism tactics, the possibility of American soldiers going into combat against suspected terrorists was raised. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Trader complains of PNP drug suspects' watchlist

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Prominent businessman and barangay chair of Culasi Eleazar Almalbis has complained to Philippine National Police Deputy Director General for administration Edgar Aglipay against a police intelligence report naming as one of the drug protectors in Capiz.

Almalbis, also a former city councilor and operator of arrastre services at the sea port in Culasi, said he had been asking for an investigation of the allegation against him but there has been no action on the part of the police.

Almalbis appealed to Aglipay to end his worries by starting an investigation.

He said that the money he was using to support his family did not come from illegal sources, much more from drugs.

Almalbis said the false accusation against him has affected not only his family but has also unnecessarily tagged innocent people, like Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario who, he said, is his friend.

"I am now embarrassed to go out with the mayor because people might say that were cohorts," Almalbis told Aglipay in an anti-drug dialogue held here Monday.

He is also the father of singer-composer Barbie Almalbis of the Barbie's Cradle.

Almalbis' arrastre operation has fueled speculation that he was protecting the entry of illegal drugs in Capiz.

Aglipay, hearing of Almalbis' complaint, instructed Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, police director for Western Visayas, to look into the businessman's case.

Navarro, who was present during the dialogue, asked that he and his office be given a month to finish their investigation of Almalbis.

The dialogue was held Monday at the Governor's Hall of the provincial capitol.

ROUNDUP

Tremors in Boracay

ROXAS CITY—Three separate slight tremors traced to movements in the fault in Romblon were felt in Roxas City and nearby areas around 11 p.m. on Wednesday, with each tremor lasting about 25 seconds. Ramil Atando of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the quakes were recorded at Intensity 1 in Roxas and Intensity 4 in Romblon, the epicenter of the earthquake. The Phivolcs also monitored quakes in Boracay at Intensity 4; Aklan, Intensity 3; and Marinduque, Intensity 2. No damage was reported, Atando said.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Call for martial law heroes

THE BANTAYOG ng mga Bayani Foundation, a 17-year-old organization, is inviting the relatives and friends of those who died in the course of resisting the Marcos dictatorship from Sept. 21, 1972 to Feb. 25, 1986, to nominate their loved ones and give details of their sacrifices and contribution to the anti-dictatorship struggle. The foundation keeps alive the memories of those who participated in the struggle by holding annual rites to honor selected martyrs on Nov. 30 (Bonifacio Day). The foundation has so far recognized 126 individuals from various provinces. Their names are embossed on a granite "Wall of Remembrance," at the Bantayog Park in Quezon City along Quezon Avenue near Edsa. Bantayog will verify all information through its own independent research. Deadline for submission of nominations this year is Sept. 30. For details, call Thelma Arceo or Cathy Abrazado at 534-5868 and 534-5889 or e-mail kilosbayan@softhome.net.

1 dies in road mishap

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A son of a traffic enforcer was killed while his companion was injured on Monday when a van hit and ran over them in Barangay San Jose here. Edgar Balajadia Jr., 21, was riding a motorcycle with Jayceen Calosa, 18, when the motorcycle skidded, throwing both men to the road. A speeding van ran over Balajadia who died on Tuesday in a hospital due to broken ribs and internal bleeding. Balajadia was the son of SPO4 Edgardo Balajadia, chief investigation officer of the traffic management unit's Kababayan Center 3 in Barangay Dolores here.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Pacifying man killed

BAGUIO CITY—A man was killed after he tried to pacify two quarreling lovers. Anthony de los Reyes, 21, was stabbed and killed by Francisco Neri, 18, when he interfered with the quarrel between Neri and his girlfriend Malve Malado. According to witnesses, De los Reyes was having a drinking spree in front of his house with friends, including Malado, when Neri arrived and asked Malado to go with him. Malado refused but the suspect insisted and pulled her hand. The group tried to calm down Neri. But instead of listening, Neri took out a fan knife and stabbed De los Reyes.

Rona Lean Sales, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Elderly couple killed

SINAIT, Ilocos Sur—The bullet-riddled bodies of an elderly couple were found in their house in Barangay Baracbac on Wednesday. Police identified the victims as Alfredo Yadao, 80, and his wife Teresa Yadao, 78. Three bullet shells and a slug of cal. 45 pistol were recovered from the crime scene. Investigators have yet to determine the motive for the killing.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Top criminal slain

BULACAN, Bulacan—Police shot and killed Bulacan's second most wanted man after a gunfight in Barangay Bagumbayan here on Thursday. Monico Espique, 30, died of multiple bullet wounds while his companion fled. Supt. Fernando Villanueva, chief of the 305th provincial mobile group, said Espique had a warrant of arrest for the killing of a couple and the wounding of another man last year. Villanueva said Espique was a former New People's Army rebel who later joined the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

5 suspects carrying fake $125-B US notes arrested

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

LILOAN, Southern Leyte—Five suspected swindlers were held after they were caught with $125 billion in fake Federal Reserve notes at the ferry terminal here at 10 p.m. Thursday.

The suspects now detained at the Sogod jail were identified as Kim Villegas Quimada, alleged leader of the group, his wife Josephine Apdua Quimada, her brother Maruel Kalibog Apdua, all of Silay Hills, Espina Extension, Surigao City; Roberto Quilario, of Las Piñas, the alleged owner of the vehicle they were riding in; and Romulo Patchaligan Velonza, the driver, of Pasay City.

Arresting policemen led by Chief Insp. Rico Tome, head of the 803rd Mobile Police, said they waited at the port area after they were tipped off that the vehicle coming from Manila boarded by the group carrying the fake US notes would pass by the terminal en route to Surigao City.

He said they knew that the vehicle, a Mitsubishi Adventure with license plate WNK 130, already arrived in Liloan early in the morning of Thursday but was hiding somewhere in Barangay Pandan here waiting for the 11 p.m. scheduled departure for Surigao of MV Maharlika, a roll-on-roll-off vessel.

Tome said they pounced on the vehicle when it was about to board the ro-ro vessel.

Training set to make RP mangoes world-class

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan—Agriculture offices and the four Ilocos region provinces are preparing the national fruit mango for the international market by conducting an intensive training on production and integrated pest management of mango.

A month-long training, which opened on Wednesday at the Agricultural-Training Institute-Provincial Training Center here, is being participated in by high value commercial crops coordinators and agricultural technologists from Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

The Philippine mango, considered in western countries as an exotic tropical fruit, is fast gaining popularity worldwide. It is the third biggest dollar earning fruit next to banana and pineapple.

But competition from other countries has led to stricter international standard controls for mango and the fruits produced in Pangasinan and the other Ilocos provinces have yet to meet quality standards demanded by the United States.

More consumers are now conscious of health risks caused by pesticides and are turning to mangoes that are pesticide-free.

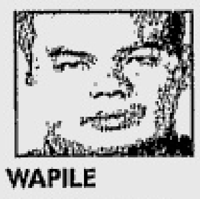
"Through this training, we hope to produce pesticide-free mangoes which can meet international standards so we can export to more countries," Pangasinan provincial agriculturist Jose Almendares said.

The lack of export quality was one problem identified by the technical working groups of the provincial mango industry development council of Pangasinan formed this year by Gov. Victor Agbayani.

Pangasinan is the country's top mango producer but many problems affect the industry such as lack of policy advocacy, lack of mango specialist training, poor or slow transfer or adoption of technology, lack of mango information network and massive spraying of potassium nitrate.

"We hope that the month-long training will address these concerns so we will be able to put the province and the Ilocos region in the world map as the top producer of the sweetest and safest mangoes," Agbayani said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 481 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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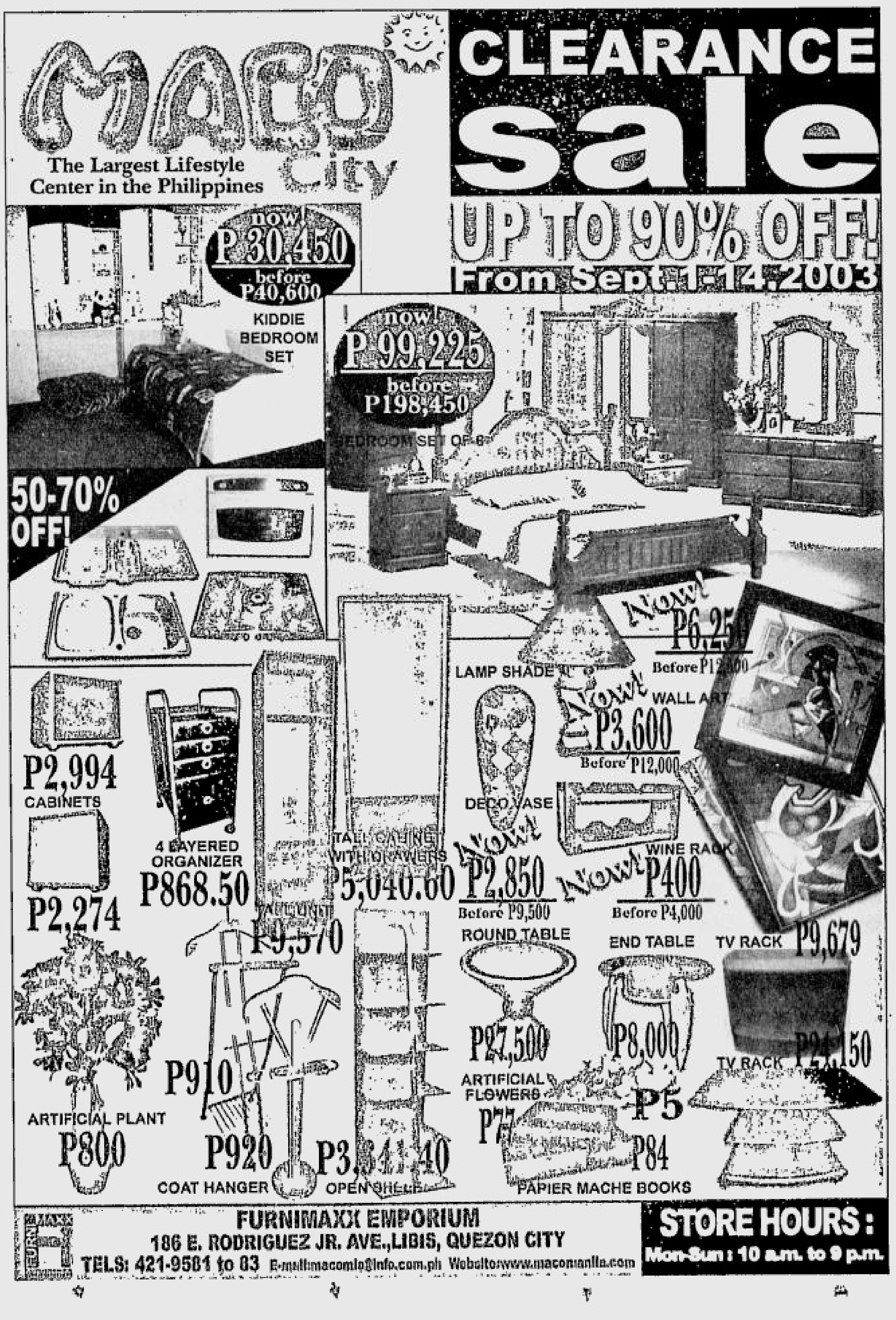
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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

A community builds a natural sanctuary

By Vicente S. Labro
Palompon, Leyte

THE TABUK Marine Park and Fish and Bird Sanctuary, a 222-hectare islet covered with lush mangrove forest and located some 300 meters just across the Palompon Municipal Hall in mainland Leyte, is one of the popular ecological destinations in Eastern Visayas.

The natural park boasts of being the spawning ground of several marine species, home to hundreds of giant bats and flying foxes, feeding and roosting site to around 2,000 wild ducks and resting and feeding place to thousands of migratory birds, like the Asian Dowitcher and Chinese Egret.

Visitors, who are mostly students and nature lovers, have to take a short motorboat ride from Palompon to reach Tabuk, where a pier and a tall viewing tower have been constructed.

Upon reaching the place, the visitors are toured through a boardwalk that cuts across the mangrove forests. Some 200 meters from the tower, the tour guide gives a lecture about the park and sanctuary, especially on the importance of maintaining ecological balance. The talk is concluded in another landing some 100 m away.

Another hundred meters of the boardwalk—now on the other side of the islet, facing the Camotes Sea—is a "hide," or a place where bird watchers can observe without being seen by the feasting and frolicking birds. One can have a good view of the whole park and the town proper from atop the tower.

But walking through the boardwalk during high tide, visitors can see small fish darting from the jagged, twisted roots of one mangrove tree to another. The tangle of roots serves as a hiding place for young fish from larger predators. Tree climbing crabs and sea snails also avoid predators by climbing the aerial roots of mangroves.

Refuge, protective shield

Mangrove forests provide not only refuge and nursery grounds but also food to young marine species. The fallen leaves and branches nurture the marine environment.

The forests also serve as a protective buffer zone to coastal communities, minimizing damage to property and loss of life during typhoons.

Two other nearby islets, Gumalac and Cabgan, are covered with mangrove trees, thus providing the poblacion of Palompon a protective shield against strong winds and waves. The three islets, collectively known as the Tres Marias, are spawning grounds of marine species.

The scene, however, is very much different from the situation about a decade ago, when only a few trees were standing and the sea was so nearly devoid of fish species that catch in the area was very low.

In 1994, a strong typhoon hit Palompon and this made many residents realize that the mangrove forests in Tabuk could no longer protect the town from the strong winds and waves. They also knew that the wanton cutting of mangrove trees for fuel use, coupled with illegal fishing and gathering of sea corals, had caused the rapid depletion of fish in the municipal waters.

They approached the local leaders to do something about the situation. What followed was a series of multisectoral consultations initiated by Mayor Ramon Onate and his vice mayor, Eulogio Tupa, that resulted in the implementation of the Environmental Amelioration for Sustainable Development Program (EASDP).

The program aimed to restore, protect and manage the fishery and marine resources, as well as alleviate poverty through improved fish catch and provision of livelihood activities.

GNARLED roots of big mangrove trees can be seen inside the Tabuk Park and Sanctuary. Men shown at work are extending the boardwalk to the area where a "hide" for bird watchers is being constructed. VEN LABRO

THE VIEWING tower at the Tabuk Marine Park and Bird and Fish Sanctuary. VEN LABRO

Its implementation has united the people of Palompon who believe that the restoration and protection of the environment will be to their collective benefit.

When the municipality-wide mangrove reforestation project was launched, more than 1,000 residents volunteered to plant 60,000 seedlings. To some, the reforestation has become a year-round activity. Since 1996, more than 200,000 mangrove seedlings have been planted in the Tres Marias Islets.

Political will

The strong political will of the local leaders and the support and determination of the residents have brought the town on the right track toward economic alleviation and a state of ecological balance.

At the start of the program implementation, the local government had chosen the Palompon Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc. (PACCI), the town's biggest and most active cooperative, as its major partner.

Several groups were also involved, such as the Host in Keeping Earth Resources Safe (Hikers), Air Rifle Association of Palompon (Arap), Alyansa sa Nagpakabanang Kabataan (Anak), Association of Barangay Councils, and the Palompon "Imbao" Jaycees, Lions Club, women's group and people's organization.

Joining in were school groups, government agencies, other cooperatives, religious organizations, the police, fishermen groups, vendors association and many others.

Among the ordinances that the municipal council passed in 1995 alone were those that declared Tabuk Island a marine park and fish and bird sanctuary; created the Human and Ecological Security Commission (HESC), which was tasked with eradicating illegal activities related to environmental degradation; and imposed a total ban on the catching of *danggit* (*Sinagid spinosus*), a dominant fish species and primary source of livelihood in the municipality, during the spawning seasons from February to April. During these months, on the fourth, fifth and sixth new moon, catching of *danggit* from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. is strictly prohibited for all fishing methods, including corals.

The municipal council, also in 1995, regulated the use of "Superlight" for fishing purposes and prohibited certain sophisticated fishing devices and methods. It created the Municipal Livelihood Committee that formulated plans, coordinated programs and supervised the implementation of a livelihood program.

The ordinances were implemented strictly to cover even relatives, friends and protegés of politicians and prominent individuals. The HESC had also sought the assistance of the police in their drive against illegal activities.

Those involved in the EASDP conducted environmental advocacy information dissemination and education drives to raise public awareness of the importance of restored ecology.

Economic support

Livelihood projects were made available to those affected by the massive environmental restoration project, particularly poor fishermen, and seashell and fuel wood gatherers who could no longer enter the areas declared sanctuary.

Dynamite fishers and those using illegal fishing devices had to find other means of livelihood because of the strict implementation of the law by the Bantay Dagat and other law enforcers.

About a dozen cooperatives were organized, composed of those who were economically displaced by the campaign to save the marine and other natural resources of Palompon. They availed themselves of low interest loans that they used to finance their new livelihood endeavors.

Livelihood skills training and trade fairs were also held to boost economic activities.

A year after the start of the EASDP implementation, fishermen already noticed an increase in *danggit* catch. In 1997, their haul had increased threefold, from 3-4 kg for 10 hours of fishing to 4-6 kg for 6-8 hours. Since then, the town has had a bountiful harvest.

The success of the "Bantay Danggit" program resulted in some enterprising fishermen and their families selling dried boneless *danggit*, thus providing them additional source of income.

Success, however, did not come easy, particularly to the municipal officials.

Just a week after Tabuk was declared a sanctuary, a group of over 30 women, mostly the spouses of fishermen and shellfish gatherers from Barangay Ipil III, trooped to the municipal hall to complain about the sanctuary declaration of Tabuk. They accused local officials of slowly killing the fishing families.

The local officials thought they had appeased the complaining housewives when they promised to amend the ordinances if they were found to be not beneficial. They were wrong. The women brought their case to the barangay chair, who threatened to resign because his constituents were angry and might not vote for him anymore. He was, however, prevailed to hold on, at least for 6 months to one year.

Others doubted that the EASDP would succeed, especially members of the local political opposition who reportedly capitalized on public dissent and called the ordinances "antipoor." In fact, for the first time in Palompon, the environment became a political issue during an election.

Vindication

Vindication came in 1997 when the town won the Galing Pook Award, an annual contest on innovations and excellence in local governance. The Asian Institute of Management, Local Government Academy, Ford Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency sponsored the award.

In 1998, Palompon received an award from the Department of the Interior and Local Government. In 2000, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines cited Palompon, also for the protection and maintenance of projects that were funded by the local government.

But to Mayor Onate and his party mates, the greatest award was when they all won by a landslide in the 1998 polls, thus showing that indeed there is such a thing as an "environment vote."

Even as early as 1997, politicians who supported the drive to restore and preserve the environment, like that village chief of Ipil III, won in the barangay polls that year.

Some coastal barangays emulated the legacy of Onate's administration by declaring a fish sanctuary area and establishing mangrove nurseries in their respective places.

Today, the efforts to reforest Palompon, not only with mangroves but also with trees in the upland areas to avoid erosion and siltation that will also affect the sea, are still going on.

First-term Mayor Marcelo Onate, younger brother of Ramon, said the eight-year effort to save and restore the mangrove forests in his town has economically benefited the people.

Marcelo, 34, said his administration was pursuing the environmental restoration and protection thrusts of the previous officials.

Very recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources entered into a memorandum of agreement with the municipal government regarding the maintenance of some completed infrastructure and reforestation projects at the Palompon Mangrove Rehabilitation Subproject, which covers over 1,300 hectares.

At present, the task to safeguard the environment in Palompon lies in the municipal environment and natural resources office headed by 31-year-old Raul Bacalla. The office has assigned men to regularly patrol the waters surrounding Tabuk Islet and the park itself, to ensure that there are no intruders.

Eco-visits

Bacalla and his men also facilitate the visit of people to the Tabuk Marine and Fish and Bird Sanctuary. Visitors are briefed and shown a film about the place, given an overview about the coastal resources management and taken to a guided tour of Tabuk and the nearby islets. They can go bird and bat watching, swimming and snorkeling. They can have lunch at a house on stilts in the middle of the sea.

The park collects a fee of P6 for each elementary pupil, P20 for high school students, P40 for college students, and P60 for adults. Foreign tourists, however, are charged P150.

Bacalla, who served as guide during the tour of reporters from Tacloban City, said they were promoting the place as an ecological destination.

"Eco-tourism denotes profit," he explained when asked why not lure more tourists to the place and sell it as an ecotourism spot.

He added that what they were after was awareness among their visitors, so that they themselves would care for the environment. Among their visitors, he recalled, were researchers from several prestigious universities in the country, as well as the United States and Britain, and some local officials on a "Lakbay Aral" tour.

The view at the marine park and the nearby places were breathtaking and we learned much about environmental protection and restoration in that brief visit to one of Leyte's old towns. But the knowledge that the majority of the people of Palompon (pop. 50,319, 1995 census) was able to unite in their bid to protect and restore the environment was already satisfying.

'Osmeña bin-Laden'

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

POKING fun at his cousin—and inadvertently at their hallowed name—Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña recently labeled Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña as "Osmeña bin-Laden."

Made in jest by someone who has a fingertip mastery of the politics of intimidation, the description has been taken seriously.

According to the senator, Tomas deserves the "terrorist" tag for recently slugging a taxi driver who made the mistake of double-parking on a busy city road.

Coming from yet another party, the eagle-eyed mayor spotted the traffic violation, jumped off his vehicle while brandishing his gun and confronted the driver. Nobody was sure what the driver did, but Tomas said he felt "challenged" and "pushed" the man away.

The victim said he was sure the mayor, who was reportedly flushed with anger and something potent, did more. He felt him connect with a blow to the jaw.

It was the poor cabbie's word against that of the city chief executive's. The victim, who was foolish enough to challenge a man with a gun (if you could believe that), suspiciously clammed up a few days later.

A similar incident a few years ago should have taught taxi drivers not to mess with members of the all-powerful Osmeña family.

Finding the driveway of his favorite watering hole barricaded by a cab, Vice Mayor Renato Osmeña, Tomas and Sonny's cousin, reportedly let his fists do the talking.

Renato claimed he merely reminded the taxi driver of the hazards of blocking the path of VIPs. Somewhere in the middle of the lecture, however, the victim mysteriously developed a black eye and contusions.

Since Renato didn't touch him, the driver must have been punching himself all the time. Imagine that.

Like Tomas' case, the victim, pockets allegedly bursting, quietly retreated from the glare of media attention.

Tomas' outbursts are becoming legendary. During his first City Hall term in the early 1990s, he smashed to smithereens a barbecue vendor's stall. To make sure he was understood, the mayor reportedly trampled on skewered meat that the obstructionist was trying to retrieve from the ground.

In the last polls, Tomas' political rivals tried to capitalize on this incident, coming out with full-page advertisements to refresh voters' memory. But apparently, the Osmeñas still "own" Cebu. Even if their influence seems to be petering out, they can do anything and get away with it.

I'm not anymore surprised to hear people boldly predict: This or that candidate will win because he's, after all, an Osmeña. So far, they have been right.

Make no mistake about it. Cebu isn't bereft of brilliant leaders—there are many—who are, however, stuck on the fringes because they aren't blessed with a familiar surname or enough logistics needed for a successful foray into politics.

The picture won't likely change in the next elections. Tomas is gunning for reelection against the weakened political machine of Alvin Garcia's family.

In Cebu province, Vice Gov. John-john, the senator's son, is aiming to make it a double for the clan over the candidate of Alvin's uncle, Gov. Pablo Garcia.

Then there's Sonny himself who is up for Senate reelection and his estranged brother Lito, who has linked up with the strongest presidential aspirant while retaining his ties with the incumbent.

Because of a lack of credible rivals, members of the clan mix it up to make things more interesting. In the news: Lito says he will dump nephew John-john. John-john continues to defy father Sonny. Sonny and Tomas tear at each other.

* * *

NAUSEATING POLITICS. Too much politics is destroying not only Cebu but also the whole country, laments an exasperated Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

In a recent pastoral letter, Vidal said the Catholic Church in Cebu "deeply feels that now is not a time to be silent, but a time to speak" against the antics of politicians gearing up for 2004.

"Let the truth be told with courage in the proper forum in order to build trust; for justice to be upheld for all, always tempered with forgiving love; for freedom to be really responsible at all times, at any cost; and for democratic processes to take their proper course in settling charges and counter-charges in the proper venue and in holding elections at the proper time," the pastoral letter read.

The letter was read in Cebu churches when the circus came to town, complete with clowns, freaks, impostors and grandstanding politicos.

THE RUINED Globe relay station in Guinobatan, Albay after the bombing incident.
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA, PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

NPA guerrillas attack cellular phone relay station in Albay

GUINOBATAN, Albay—About 30 suspected New People's Army guerrillas bombed a Globe relay station in Barangay Bubulusan, Guinobatan on Thursday.

Albay police director Col. Pedro Tango told the INQUIRER that at about 8:25 p.m., gunmen bombed the power generating equipment of the cell site and burned the cabin room and regulator switch connected to the Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco). The fire and explosions immediately destroyed one of the posts of the tower.

Tango said extortion was behind the new attack of the NPA.

Although the tower did not collapse, its sensitive parts had been destroyed, Tango said. The damage was placed at P15 million.

Senior Supt. Gerson Oserin recalled that in November last year, officials of Smart and Globe shut down their relay stations around Guinobatan town and nearby places to protect their equipment and the lives of their personnel from NPA attacks.

Early this year, NPA rebels also torched a Globe relay station in Sorsogon, while last year, the NPA tried to bomb a Smart relay station in Travesia, also in Guinobatan. The attack on Smart was foiled by government troops.

The attacks prompted the companies to suspend their operations for a few months.

Chief Supt. Jaime Lasar ordered troops to hunt the rebels.

In Naga City, the NPA in Camarines Sur claimed that the attack on a police post that killed a policeman in a mountain barangay was a success.

Success

The NPA said in a statement that a certain SPO2 Anselmo "Sammy" Delgado, an alleged former member of the Manila Western Police District involved in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, was one of the targets.

Delgado survived the attack unscathed while his companion SPO2 Placido Morales was killed and a certain SPO2 Cordova was wounded.

The rebels also mentioned a certain SPO2 Nestor Perez as the other target of the attack.

The NPA rebels accused Delgado and Perez of protecting illegal activities and committing crimes against civilians in six barangays of Naga City.

Ka Ramona Caceres, public information officer of the NPA Camarines Sur unit, told the INQUIRER Wednesday that the NPA rebels were forced to kill Morales because he did not surrender to them when he was cornered but continued to put up a fight in hand combat after his rifle had been grabbed from him. *Juan Escandor Jr., Michael Jaucian and Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gunmen fire rocket at mayor, miss

PARANG, Maguindanao—A group of still unidentified armed men waylaid Mayor Vivencio Bataga near the municipal hall late afternoon on Thursday.

Bataga, a retired Army colonel who figured in the 2000 all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was not hurt when the armed men fired at least two rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) at his service car near the Mt. Carmel Church, some 70 meters from the police station, around 5:20 p.m.

But two bystanders were lightly injured in the explosions according to a report prepared by the local police.

"The mayor and his bodyguards had just left the town hall when ambushed along the road. The RPG ammunition landed some 30 meters away from the mayor's vehicle," Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, said.

Omar said policemen chased the suspects but failed to catch any of them.

He, however, said the police recovered an RPG launcher left by the fleeing suspects.

Omar said Thursday's attack was the second attempt on Bataga's life.

In April, the mayor narrowly escaped death when an improvised bomb exploded inside the Parang public market, which he was visiting at the time. *Rosa-May de Guzman and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 dead in drug-related attacks in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—At least four persons were killed and four others were wounded in two drug-related ambushes in Quezon province.

Bonnet-wearing assailants gunned down Bernardo Rayos, 39, resident of Barangay Ibabang Iyam, this city, at around 11:50 a.m. yesterday in Pagbilao as he drove the family car a few minutes after he left the district jail in Barangay Talipan after posting bail. He died on the spot.

His wife Genalyn and one Maribel Zoleta, died a few minutes later in a nearby hospital.

The victims were aboard a Toyota Corolla when they were ambushed.

On Thursday, an unidentified lone gunman shot dead the patriarch of a clan of suspected drug pushers.

Supt. Edgar Layon, Lucena police chief, identified the victim as Victor de los Reyes, 66, and a resident of this city.

A police report said that at about 1:30 p.m., while the victim was sitting alone in front of a store near their house, the suspect who just alighted from a vehicle shot De los Reyes from behind hitting him in the back.

The suspect then fled aboard a dark blue Toyota Revo bearing plate number UPB-708. The victim died while undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Rayos, who was tagged by police as the No. 1 drug supplier in this city with a network of drug pushers under his employ, was arrested by the police last month.

Critically wounded and being treated at the MMG hospital were the victim's 9-year-old son identified as Banjo Rayos and his uncle Wilfredo Calinao. The victim's teenage daughter, Gladys, who escaped through the car window, only suffered slight injury in the right foot.

Another unidentified bystander was also hit in the hand by a stray bullet from an M-16 rifle. Police investigators recovered bullet shells from cal. 45 and 9 mm pistols and M-16 rifles from the scene of the ambush.

Gladys said the assailants were posted at the corner of the Maharlika Highway and the road leading to the detention jail. "They looked like they were really waiting for us to pass by. As soon as my father step on the brake to make a right turn to the highway leading to Lucena, the persons fired their guns at us," she told the INQUIRER.

"I pleaded them to stop shooting telling them that there's a child inside but they still continued," she said. She said when their car hit the steel post of a nearby restaurant the assailants still followed and pumped more bullets into the car.

Gladys said the killers were aboard a closed van and sped off toward Lucena after the shooting. Police said the van was loaded with passengers.

Police had arrested De los Reyes and several members of his family during a drug bust three years ago. They seized almost 400 grams of shabu from the patriarch house and one of his sons.

With the two incidents, reports flew thick that a vigilante group is here to salvage drug pushers.

However, Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Quezon police chief, said "It could be due to infighting among syndicate members," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Clark exec in import mess cleared

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Office of the Ombudsman dismissed the complaints for graft and grave misconduct against Clark Development Corp. executive vice president Victor Jose Luciano for lack of probable cause.

The Ombudsman, however, has yet to act on another graft case filed in April against Luciano, other CDC executives and customs officials.

The two resolutions said a CDC order suspending the import of cigarettes was not in effect when Luciano issued an import permit to Jane Laureen Simbulan, manager of the R. A. Niño Inc.

Simbulan, whom Bengco also sued, filed an import permit on Dec. 12, 2002. Luciano approved the permit Jan. 13, allowing Simbulan to bring in 1,000 cartons of cigarettes from Hong Kong.

"We believe . . . that respondent Luciano was merely performing his lawful duties," the resolutions read.

The other complaint for graft accused Luciano and Isidro Sumulong Jr., customs officer-in-charge, of allegedly allowing a supposed crony of deposed President Joseph Estrada to "over-import" duty-free items into Clark.

Councilors Alex Cauguiran, Ireneo Alvaro Jr., Ares Yabut, Louie Reyes, Carlito Ganzon, Rodolfo Simeon, Agapito del Rosario and Alexander Indiongco filed the complaint on the strength of Resolution 3845.

The three-page resolution, approved on March 18, also specified how the two officials allegedly gave "unwarranted benefits and advantage" to Puregold, a duty-free store owned by Lucio Co.

The councilors said Puregold imported at least 4.3 millions of Maling canned meat products and more than a million bottles of wine and liquor from October 2001 to June 30, 2002. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Power firm continues scholarship programs

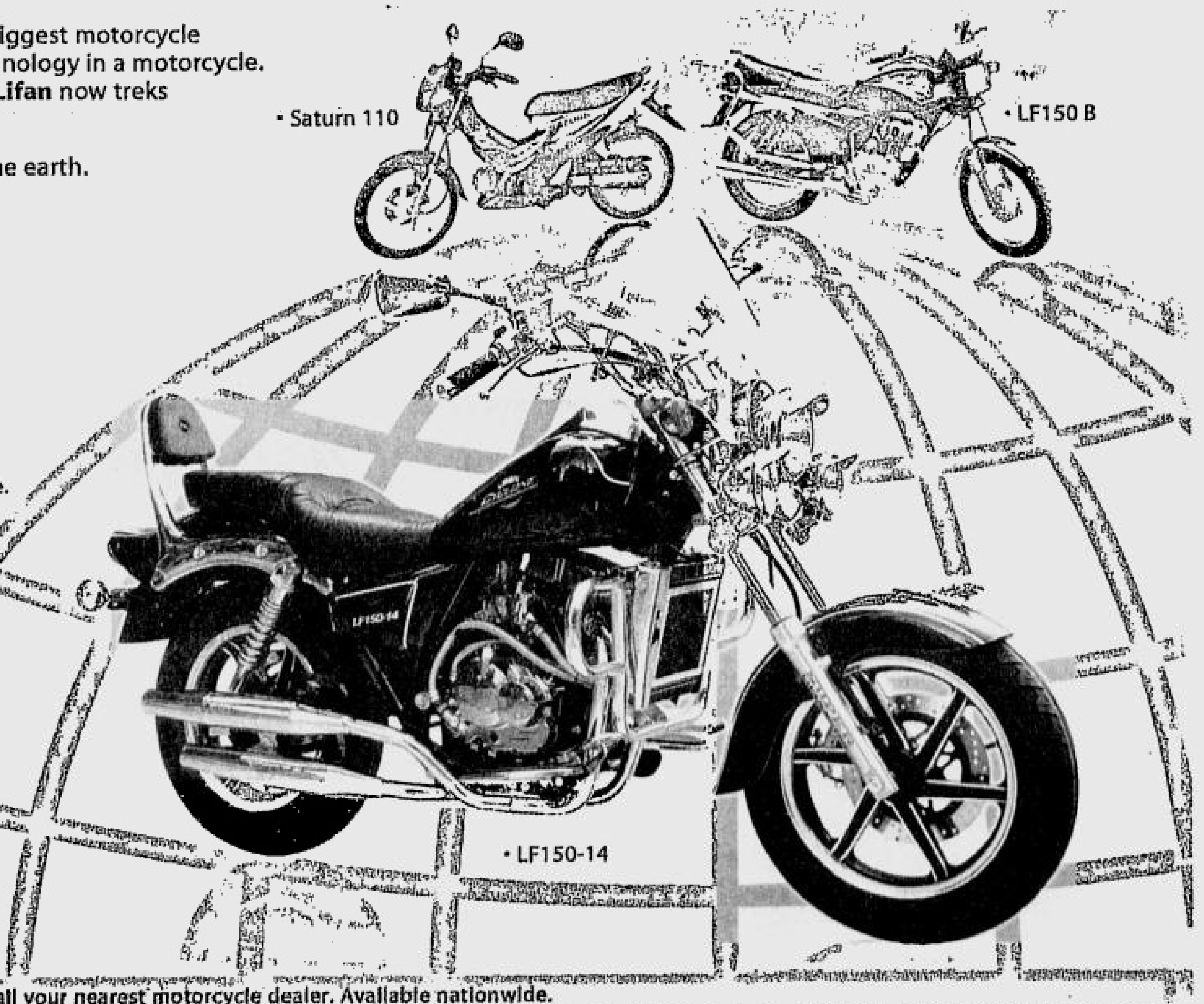
THE PHILIPPINE Geothermal Inc. (PGI) has presented its new batch of scholars in Mak-Ban under the PGI scholarship program at the quadrangle of the St. Thomas Academy in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Barry Andrews, PGI president, said in a statement that the scholarship program was PGI's part in "its commitment to education as a platform for national development."

The program started in 1984. PGI scholars are entitled to full tuition and other school fees, monthly book allowances and monthly stipends.

To qualify for the scholarship program, applicants' families should have a per capita income of P50,000 a year, should not be more than 20 years old and must have good grades.

Mark Paul Flores, 14, and one of the PGI scholars said the program allowed his father to attend to his other siblings' needs.



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Army chief allays fears of 'cash for coup'

By TJ Burgonio

ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling faced the press yesterday, to allay fears that he and other ranking officials as well as rank-and-file soldiers were open to joining another coup attempt for huge sums of money.

Fresh from an official mission to South Korea, Camiling also brushed off speculation that he had quit his post to pave the way for the establishment of a military junta, and that he remained loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Camiling said Army officials and enlisted personnel would never be "lured" by any financial offer to mount a coup and would never be distracted from their mission of running after communist and secessionist rebels.

"Some of our troops may be wounded, but they still go back to the field to continue the task; some are killed every day. They will not be bothered by that because they have training and discipline," he said.

"Overall, the Army is solid. The focus is still on the mission."

Camiling admitted that he has received "raw information" that military generals were offered P10 million each and enlisted personnel, P50,000, in a fresh round of recruitment for the mounting of another coup.

"If ever, they (recruiters) could only convince a few, particularly those who have problems," he said at the briefing attended by Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, Army vice chief, and some 40 members of the Army G-staff.

When asked to name the group spearheading the recruitment, Camiling said: "I can't answer that; you can ask that (of) the AFP chief. We have an ongoing investigation and we don't want to preempt the outcome."

Camiling also said he didn't see the need to conduct a loyalty check on Army officials, officers and enlisted personnel amid the talk of recruitment.

"We don't see the need for such. We know and we monitor the performance of our troops, and there is a continuing communication between commanders. Add to that the visibility of commanders at all levels so we can monitor what is happening," he said.

Camiling also belied speculations that he, together with four other generals, had stepped down to pave the way for the establishment of a military junta and installation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as head.

"It's not true that I have resigned, but I have filed my retirement papers," he said, referring to the documents he was required to submit to general headquarters before he retires from the service in November.

Camiling was attending a conference of Army chiefs in Asia in South Korea when news of his resignation broke.

The four others were Lieutenant Generals Ernesto Carolina, vice chief of staff; Roy Kyamko of the Southern Command, Alfonso Dagudag of the Southern Luzon Command and Rear Adm. Edgardo Israel of the Civil Relations Service.

Camiling also debunked public perception that he was loyal to former President Estrada, who was ousted by a military-backed people's revolt amid massive charges of corruption.

"Since I headed Southern Command, I have been the subject of the black propaganda that I was pro-Erap. I was never pro-Erap. I admit we often saw each other when he was still President. I was just being professional," he said.

"I follow the chain of command ... the Constitution. As I've told President Arroyo, I do not give personal loyalty to politicians because I'm professional. I just do my job. But to the President, I give her my personal loyalty," Camiling said. "The Army is behind the President and the chain of command."

CAMILING: If ever, they could only convince a few, particularly those who have problems.

REUTERS

GMA calls plots vs Palace 'an empty shell of rumors'

From page A1

lems. "The trip is still a go except that the duration might have to be cut short."

Bunye was quick to deny speculation that the President did not want to be away from Malacañang for an extended period because of a brewing destabilization plot.

"It is not necessarily because of the coup plot. The President is very flexible and she will act depending on the needs of the situation," Bunye said.

The President would factor in the prevailing situation to determine how long or how short she would stay abroad, he added. But "cancellation is not an option."

The President is scheduled to visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait starting on Sept. 21.

The President made her first foreign trip since the July 27 mutiny last week, when she visited Brunei, but she was out of the country for only a few hours.

Empty shell

The President said much of the instability could be traced to the mischief of cell phone text messages: "The so-called destabilization plot, or what remains of it, is an empty shell of rumors, mischievous text messages and noisy propaganda. We are moving forward in the security and law enforcement fronts and this is clearing the ground for sustained reforms."

She also said her decision to stay away from partisan politics is now paying off, after the Philippines emerged as one of the most stable emerging economies in the region.

The President said she was not surprised about the good news, despite the many problems confronting her administration. "Policy consistency and good governance have paid off," she said.

"This is the benefit we gain from focusing the government away from partisan politics and toward the essential tasks of security, development and reform," she added.

The President was referring to the results of a survey conducted by Lehman Brothers and the Eurasia Group, a firm that analyzes political risk in selected countries, which appeared in The Economist magazine.

It showed the Philippines placing ninth among 16 developing countries with stable economies.

MILITANT protesters clash with policemen in front of the Philippine Stock Exchange Building in Makati City.

EPA/DENNIS SABANGAN

Persistent rumors

But Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said that while there was no evidence of another brewing coup plot, there was concern about moves to "create an impression of instability and growing antigovernment sentiments among the public."

Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, the subject the other day of persistent rumors, called a news conference yesterday to deny reports that he and at least four other generals have resigned. *(See boxed story above.)*

But the latest round of rumors battered the peso yesterday, causing it to breach the P55 level again. The recent assurances by the Armed Forces that it would crush coup plots brought little comfort to the market.

"As long as there is a threat to security, words are not enough. Reforms are needed. This is a long-term problem that will stick with us," AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan told Dow Jones Newswires.

In Malacañang, former military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus told reporters that the political and civilian components of the destabilization plot were behind the series of high-profile bank robberies (including the Citibank heist in Makati), kidnappings and antigovernment rallies. He said that based on intelligence reports, these components were aggressively recruiting people in the countryside.

But with their military component cut off, Corpus belittled the group's chances of succeeding.

Corpus said the military's recovery of the list of coup plotters in the military has helped in prosecuting disloyal officers and repelling fresh attempts to bribe soldiers to join coup plots. "It would be difficult to get military support for their cause because we know who they are," said Corpus, who has been reassigned to Malacañang for the President's special projects.

The President said she has already ordered the release of 77 officers implicated in the mutiny from detention and their charges dropped after they were found to be innocent players in the mutiny.

Other developments

In a bid to strengthen its position, the government yesterday announced the recent deployment of some 350,000 newly trained barangay watchmen in the streets.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said the watchmen would assist the police and military in their work. He added that their training was in accordance with the President's instruction to provide the watchmen with adequate training to strengthen their capabilities as front-liners in addressing peace and order problems in their respective localities.

"Now more than ever, we are counting on the active support and participation of the citizenry and the key sectors of society to triumph in the war against crime and lawlessness," Lina said.

Meanwhile, militant groups yesterday warned of another uprising similar to the People Power II in January 2001 as they held a motorcade rally around Makati City to demand the President's immediate resignation.

Armed with placards, around 30 members of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Pamalakaya and Anakpawis paraded in front of the LTA and Philippine Stock Exchange buildings and asked the business sector to support their cause.

In Los Baños, Laguna, opposition Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) accused the President and her "spin doctors" of being behind the alleged destabilization plot.

Remulla claimed the "dirty tactic" was aimed at silencing the united opposition and diverting public attention away from the Jose Pidal case.

"(Macapagal) Arroyo and her Cabinet are desperately trying to link us in the supposed destabilization plot to create an atmosphere of fear among the people. It's a scare tactic aimed at deflecting people's attention away from controversy involving her husband," Remulla told the INQUIRER.

Meanwhile, the House committee on public order, chaired by Rep. Ace Durano, said it wanted to conduct its own investigation on the supposed "rescue" of Pidal whistle-blower Eugenio Mahusay Jr. from his safe house in Tagaytay.

The President, who came to Parola to award lot eligibility certificates, was welcomed by some 300 residents, most of whom were holding placards bearing their messages of support to the President.

Ms Macapagal thanked the residents for supporting the administration. *With reports from Cynthia Balana; AP, AFP; Nelson Flores; Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tarra Quismundo, Margaux Ortiz*

Gov't warns Copa; Saycon leaves for US

From page A1

Saycon, he added, would not be confined but will undergo several tests before medication.

"I told him that his departure might be perceived as suspicious, but he really needs the treatment. His doctor there is a good one," Esposo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He admitted that Saycon's leaving "was wrongly timed, since he is our organizer and we at Copa need him" for an upcoming conference of civil society groups.

Saycon is expected to return to Manila later next week.

Saycon recently led a march on banks in Makati City that were said to be involved in the Jose Pidal controversy. Copa also met with retired generals, who discussed the current national situation in the light of recent political scandals.

Esposo said Malacañang should not be "praning" (paranoid) about Copa's activities since the group is not involved in any coup d'etat or destabilization moves against the administration.

Links with PMAP

But Lina laid down the law against groups intent on destabilization.

"When they commit acts of violence, they can be charged and arrested," he told reporters.

SAYCON: Trip to the United States "wrongly timed."

BOY CABRIDO

Lina's warning came amid reports that Copa had linked up with the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), a group of Estrada loyalists responsible for the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang in 2001.

Copa was involved in the popular revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada, but later became a fierce critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lina explained that the monitoring of groups such as Copa was a "normal function of law enforcement agencies."

He also echoed the President's position that belittled the capability of these groups to destabilize the government.

"Their number is insignificant and the situation is manageable," he said. "But the government cannot take chances. We have to be vigilant."

Lina said destabilization activities were largely concentrated in Metro Manila and have not yet reached the provinces.

Herself not taking any chances, President Macapagal held a joint command conference with the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police last Thursday in Camp Aguinaldo.

Last night, she was to have dinner in Malacañang with members of the controversial Class of 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy, which includes Senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan.

To cushion the effects of coup rumors, Lina advised the public to stop circulating baseless information, especially through text messages.

"Instead of passing them," he said, "you can verify them from the AFP and the PNP."

"The government is appealing to the people to just attend to their normal course of business and the law enforcement agencies, the PNP and the AFP in particular, will continue their vigilance and act accordingly," he told the INQUIRER.

FOUR DIGIT
8 9 2 6
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
5 3 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 9 16 19 34 37

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Destabilization hurting Pinoys–mayors

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MOVES to destabilize the government are supposed to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, but these are hurting Filipinos more, according to several Metro Manila mayors.

For starters, Valenzuela City Mayor Bobbit Carlos said investors were expressing concern over the political instability brought about by the destabilization moves.

Carlos said he had talked to businessmen in Valenzuela and these had complained that efforts to topple the Macapagal-Arroyo administration were hurting their businesses.

"In the end it would be the poor who would be severely affected," Carlos said in Filipino.

In his assessment, Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo said destabilization was already taking its toll on the economy.

Malonzo said people plotting to overthrow Ms Macapagal were deliberately sabotaging the economy to drag the country deeper into poverty.

According to him, political enemies of the President were hoping that the people would blame Macapagal-Arroyo for the worsening economic situation and rise up against her.

"They (plotters) should stop now because they would never succeed," Malonzo stressed.

To help thwart the plans of people fanning dissent, the Caloocan mayor revealed that several Metro Manila mayors had come together to solidly stand behind the President.

These mayors include Malonzo, Carlos, Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio and Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

They called on destabilization plotters to just wait for the May 2004 elections.

"That (elections) would be the right venue to express what we feel about the government," Tiangco told the INQUIRER.

He added that he and his fellow local leaders "will always support the duly constituted officials (and) the constitution."

For his part, Vicencio said that as members of the present government, it was the responsibility of government officials to stand by the administration amid such threats.

The Malabon mayor expressed belief that the planned political summit could be the key in peacefully resolving the brewing political tension.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal disclosed that people "out to escape justice" were plotting to destabilize her administration. She said these plots would fail.

On Thursday, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said government had already identified the "destabilizing elements," which he described as a "hodgepodge of desperate groups."

PRIZE CATCH
Alleged illegal recruiter Primitiva Espartero stands behind bars after she was arrested by the Anti Organized Crime Division of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. She reportedly heads a group that victimizes Filipinos seeking to work in Thailand. JOAN BONDOC

Price hike elates GMA

By Tarra Quismundo

IT SEEMS to be the only price hike that means good news.

"The price of shabu has doubled," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced to some 300 residents of Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila.

Ms Macapagal also lauded the police in their campaign against illegal drugs.

The President also said that in her first command conference as defense secretary the other day, she learned that the Philippine National Police had spent only P30 million of its P100-million fund for the three-month anti-drug campaign.

"Now, two and a half months later, they (police) still have P70 million," Ms Macapagal said. "Not only are they doing a good job, they are even able to save funds."

Western Police District Director Pedro Bulaong, who listened to the President's speech, said that the commendation was "very good."

Bulaong also confirmed the increase in the price of shabu.

"Five grams, which used to cost P4,000, is now sold on the streets for P8,000," he said.

Bulaong added that the WPD, which has anti-illegal drugs units in all its police stations, has arrested some 2,000 drug users and pushers in Manila.

"We have now cleared 54 percent of… Manila," said Bulaong, referring to drug suspects in the city.

He added that the WPD, with the help of barangay officials and non-government organizations, are carrying on drug raids in the city, especially in what he called "severely affected" areas like Quiapo and Tondo.

Tiff over HK trip preview of 2004 polls–Angping

By Carlito Pablo

MANILA Rep. Harry Angping is bracing for a proxy fight with political nemesis Mayor Lito Atienza in the 2004 congressional elections in the city's third legislative district.

Angping yesterday said Atienza's ranting over his paying for a four-day trip of 60 barangay chairmen to Hong Kong and China was a prelude to next year's polls.

According to the congressman, Atienza is setting up his son-in-law Myle Roces, a city councilor now in his third and last term, for a bid to foil his reelection.

Angping will be running for his third and last term in 2004.

In an interview, Angping said this looming electoral battle was the reason why the camp of Atienza was stoking up the controversy regarding the trip of the barangay chairmen in Manila's third district.

"It's politics from the start," Angping said. "Elections have started early in Manila."

On the other hand, Atienza could be running for reelection against prospective candidates former Mayor Ismael Lopez (Lakas) and current Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna (PDP-Laban), both associates of Angping.

"It might be a Lopez-Lacuna ticket with the vice mayor running for another term in office," Angping said. "We might have a coalition against the incumbent."

The third district is composed of the bustling business areas of Quiapo, Binondo, Sta. Cruz and Blumentritt.

Last August, Angping brought more than 60 barangay leaders for an "educational tour" in Hong Kong and China.

Angping said that he spent about P500,000 for air fare, land travels and a modest shopping allowance for the village leaders.

"What's wrong with that?" the Filipino-Chinese businessman said. "The trip was made to broaden the horizons of our leaders so they can pick up, along the way, some ideas on how to improve their areas."

Angping cited, as an example, that the barangay leaders were impressed at the cleanliness programs in Hong Kong and China and "they were saying we can also do it in Manila."

With wife dead, man molests daughter

THE ORDEAL of a 12-year-old girl did not stop with the death of her mother. It went on after her father took her in.

Police said that for three months, the girl suffered abuses in the hands of her 45-year-old father. The girl told the police that when her mother died three months ago, her father fetched her from their hometown in Cagayan Province and took her to his house in Quezon City, promising her an education.

But the girl said her father would abuse her everytime he was drunk.

On Thursday, the girl had had enough and sought the help of neighbors. Quezon City lawmen arrived that night at their house in Novaliches, Quezon City and arrested her father.

At the station, the girl broke into tears as she expressed fears that her father might have gotten her pregnant because her monthly period had been delayed.

"If my mother were still alive, I would not have gone through this," the victim said in Filipino. *Tina Santos*

Driver stabs couple in Makati condo

By Margaux Ortiz

A FAMILY driver, claiming to be the lover of his employer, stabbed the woman and her husband in a fit of rage yesterday morning in a Makati City condominium.

Makati policemen arrested Joseph Besa, 27, a native of Quezon province, for stabbing businessman Pablo Lopez, 48, and Paz Amaya, 38, in their unit at the BSA Tower, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village.

The suspect told police that he fought with Amaya Thursday night allegedly because of her jealous fits.

Besa said that when he was about to make up with Amaya yesterday morning, she shouted harsh words at him in front of her husband.

The woman's nephew, Michael Amaya, was also inside the unit and witnessed the incident, Besa added.

The suspect said that when Lopez punched him, he took a pair of scissors and stabbed the couple.

Amaya sustained four stab wounds, while her husband was stabbed several times, police said.

Besa said he saw Amaya's frightened nephew jump out the window of the condo unit.

He landed two floors below unhurt, Besa told police.

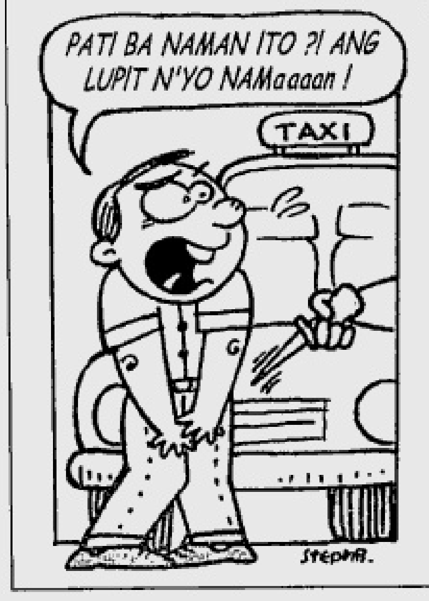
Sinfronio Abad, head of building security, said he barged inside the unit and arrested the suspect after hearing loud noises.

Abad said the suspect did not resist arrest and calmly surrendered.

The victims were still conscious when they were taken to the Makati Medical Center, police said.

They are now in stable condition, police added.

Cabbie loses car, cash, dignity in robbery


PATI BA NAMAN ITO ?! ANG LUPIT N'YO NAMaaaan !
TAXI
StephR.

TAXI driver Vicente Magsoling not only lost his earnings and his cab to two robbers yesterday morning, he also lost his pants to the suspects.

Magsoling, 33, of Interior 3, Old Balara, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, was driving along M.H. Del Pilar at about 1 a.m. yesterday when two men hailed his cab at the corner of Mabini Street.

One of the men sat beside him, while the other sat in the back.

Moments later, the two men pulled out knives and announced a heist. Magsoling was forced to hand over his wallet with P1,000 and his driver's license.

Not content with the money, Western Police District investigators said one of the suspects also asked for Magsoling's pants before ordering him out of his ABC Transport taxi, a white Toyota Corolla with plate number PXT 297, which the suspects used in their getaway.

Magsoling later appeared at the WPD Station 5 wearing only his shirt and underwear.

At about 7 a.m., the police found the stolen taxi abandoned along Cavite corner Blumentritt Street in Sta. Cruz.

Magsoling's pants, however, were nowhere to be found.

Nonetheless, the driver was thankful that he only lost his money and his pants.

And although he briefly lost his dignity, he said he still had the rest of his life intact. *Leila Salaverria*

METROBRIEFS

Burglary in QC

CAROL Lazaro, who claims to be a consultant of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, on Thursday lost more than P130,000 in cash and valuables to burglars. Lazaro, 30, yesterday lodged a complaint with the Central Police District after she found out that burglars broke into her condominium unit in Quezon City. She said the suspects could have barged into her unit at the F.H. Manere Condominium on Matahimik Street, Barangay Malaya, Quezon City, between 2:30 and 9 p.m. Thursday. *Tina Santos*

Accident on Ortigas

A BUS accident caused a massive traffic jam in one of Metro Manila's busiest streets in the early morning rush yesterday. An Edsa-bound RRCG Liner (TVX 956) lost control and hit two telephone posts in front of the Ever Gotesco mall on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, at 5:45 a.m. SP03 Alexander Galang said the driver, Moises Valderama, was about to make a stop for a passenger when he noticed that the break was not working. "He chose to swerve right to avoid people," Galang said. "It was a good thing the street was not yet full of commuters." Valderrama was hurt in the accident, Galang said. *Luige del Puerto*

Snatching in Caloocan

MARIE Stephanie Daguna on Thursday got her necklace back, but without its pendant. Daguna, 20, of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, was waiting for a bus in Monumento, Caloocan City when suspected snatcher Geronimo Magpayo grabbed her necklace, slightly scratching the victim's neck, police said. A police mobile unit heard Daguna's cry for help and collared Magpayo, recovering the victim's necklace worth P6,000. But Daguna was shocked when she saw the necklace's pendant was gone. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Solon disgraces House of Representatives

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

JUST like the Senate, which Panfilo Lacson uses to hit at his personal enemies, the House of Representatives is being used by Rep. Clavel Martinez to get back at a broadcaster who insulted her.

Clavel wants Korina Sanchez of ABS-CBN to appear before her at the House because the co-host of "Morning Girls" called her "bastos."

In short, the honorable congresswoman wants Sanchez humiliated before the House committee on public information.

* * *

Sanchez should not go no matter how many summonses she receives from Congress.

No legislator has the power to suppress a citizen's right to free speech.

By the way, who are you in Congress to tell us journalists or broadcasters what to say or write?

* * *

What's in the word "bastos?" It has a very wide meaning much like "Mabuhay!"

Bastos means any of these: ill-bred, discourteous, irreverent, ungracious, indiscreet, impolite, rude.

Clavel is really *bastos* for using her position to harass a broadcaster. I challenge her to summon me for also calling her *bastos*.

You will only be put to shame, Madame Congresswoman, because I will not heed your summons.

* * *

It's high time members of the Senate and House of Representatives stopped using those chambers to vent their anger on people who have incurred their wrath.

Remember, guys, you are there to pass laws and not to harass your enemies or those who have insulted you.

Don't act like the gods and goddesses of Olympus.

* * *

What got Clavel's goat?

During a committee on justice's hearing on medical malpractice, Sanchez brought with her some victims of doctors who were reckless in treating their patients. Sanchez is a staunch advocate of reforms in the local medical profession.

Clavel, who's a member of the committee, didn't give the medical malpractice victims a chance to talk. She reportedly hogged the talking.

So, in her daily morning program, Sanchez told co-host Kris Aquino that Clavel was *bastos* for not giving the victims a chance to air their sentiments. The controversial broadcaster probably meant Clavel was impolite to the victims.

So, what's wrong with the word *bastos* to describe "Your Honor?"

* * *

If I may say so, Clavel is really *bastos* for desecrating the House of Representatives that is supposed to be composed of decent men and women.

Bastos ka gyud, 'Day, kay imo mang gibaboy ang Kongreso.

That was Visayan for: You're irreverent, Woman, for bringing shame to the House of Representatives.

* * *

The House is not the proper forum for redressing a grievance of its "honorable" member. It should be the court.

Clavel should have filed libel or oral defamation case against Korina Sanchez if she felt so slighted by the broadcaster's remark.

* * *

Doctors at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig, especially those in the delivery room, should treat their patients with dignity.

They should not take liberties with patients just because they're poor. The government-run hospital serves poor people.

Some doctors slap, pull the hair and cuss patients writhing in childbirth labor, a nursing student told me.

* * *

"I was shocked when I saw how these doctors treat maternity patients. How could they be so cruel?" the nursing student said.

She mentioned some names but I am withholding them.

* * *

Remember what President Magsaysay once said about the poor?

"Those who have less in life should have more in law," he said.

He was not only referring to justice for the poor, he was also referring to the kind of service the government should provide the poor.

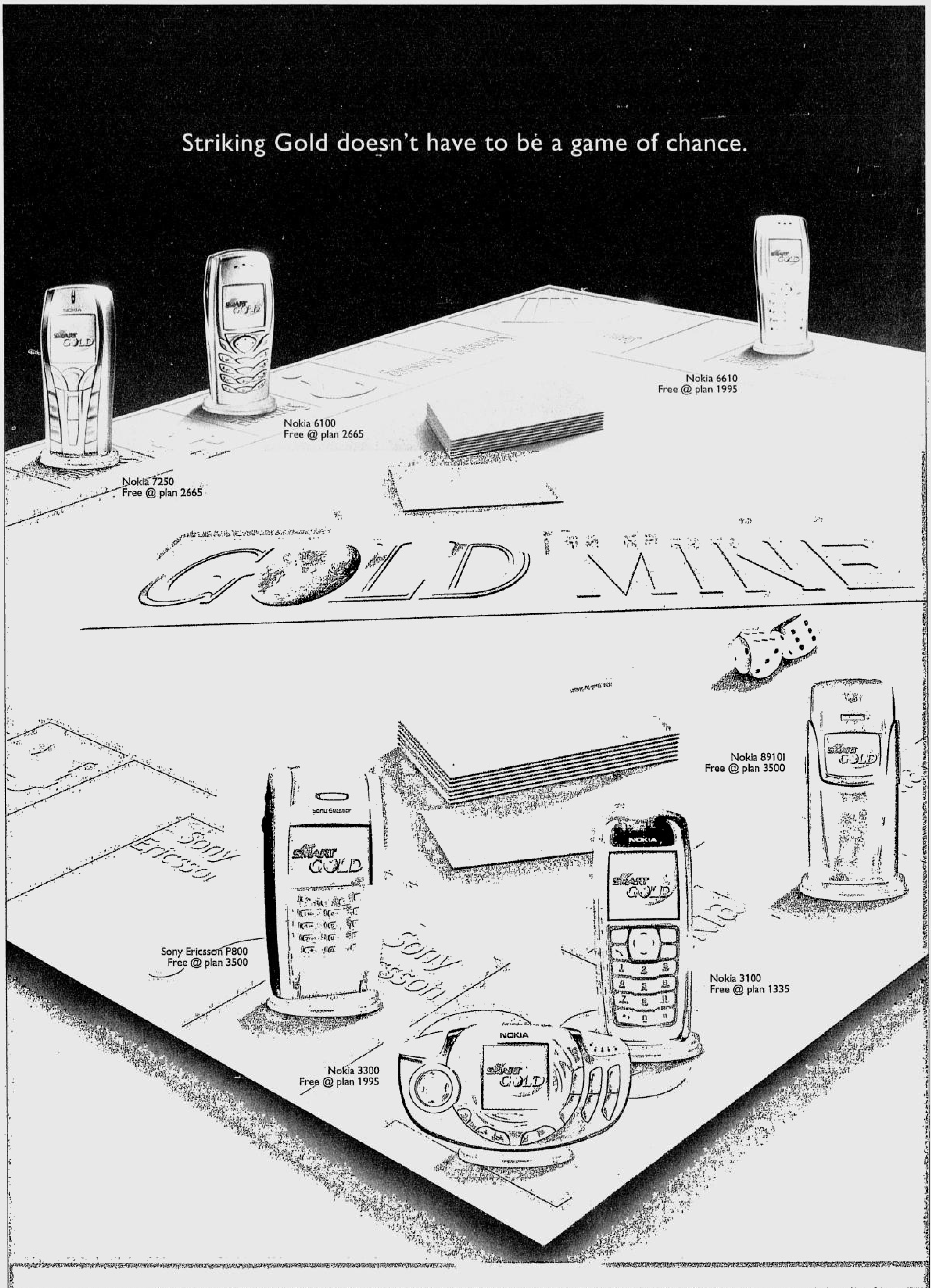
Those doctors who treat poor patients shabbily have no business working in a government hospital.

* * *

Please watch "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" at RPN 9, from 6 to 7 tonight for the sequel to last Saturday's episode on the confessions of a dying man.

Francisco "Kit" Mateo, an alleged former hit man of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, retracted his confessions.

We are featuring Mateo's retraction as well as our comments on why the retraction should not be believed.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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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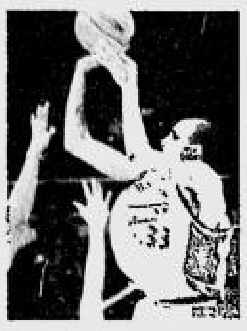

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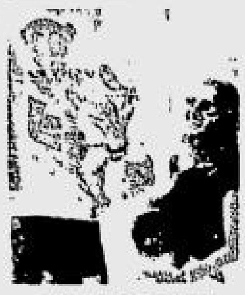

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4th in Vietnam still difficult says Dayrit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN a fourth-place finish would be difficult.

That bleak assessment came from no less than Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, who said the Philippines will have to contend with Malaysia for fourth place in the coming Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

The POC chief said Vietnam has a clear 30-gold medal advantage over the opposition because of two new sports, shuttlecock and fin swimming, and additional wushu events.

"Vietnam is in contention to win the overall championship," said Dayrit at yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan where he appeared with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

"Indonesia is the perennial SEA Games superpower, while Thailand has world-class

4TH/ A22

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Sputtering finish for Jerome, Juvic; Filipinos 5th

Final Standings

852—Australia (214-213-216-209)
870—Korea (221-222-210-217)
871—Japan (214-220-219-218); New Zealand (211-214-229-217)
888—Philippines (217-222-220-229); Pakistan (221-222-225-220)
890—India (217-231-227-215)
895—Thailand (225-220-223-227)
897—Malaysia (227-225-219-226)
911—Singapore (225-229-227-230)
915—Taipei (218-229-234-234)
947—HK (240-235-233-239)

SOMEBODY other than Jerome Delariarte and Juvic Pagunsan stepped forward for a Philippine team looking for a hero yesterday as they lost their individual bids in the Asia-Pacific amateur golf team championship in Queensland, Australia.

Delariarte and Pagunsan sputtered in the face of a relentless drive by James Nitties, who powered host Australia to a dominating sweep of the team and individual titles with a closing three-under-par 68.

As Delariarte and Pagunsan folded up with their worst scores in four days of 77 and 79, respectively, at The Links course, Marvin Dumandan finally made his presence felt for the Philippine team which settled for a share of fifth with Pakistan.

Dumandan, a national team returnee playing out of Riviera, counted for the first time and in style with a team-best 73 to complete the Filipinos' total of 229—their worst in the tournament—for a 72-hole aggregate of 888.

Delariarte, only two shots off Nitties at the start of the day, ended up 11 behind and wound up in a tie for fifth place with a 292. From third place, Pagunsan crashed to 13th with a 295.

Their teammate Jay Bayron had a woeful 81 and did not count.

Australia capped its historic third consecutive crown with a four-under 209 effort on the final day for an 852, winning by 18 strokes over South Korea, which had a 870 after a 217.

Japan (218) and New Zealand (217) tied for third with 871s.

The host team, after being closely challenged by New Zealand on opening day, drew a big round from US amateur champion Nick Flanagan, who closed with a final round 69 that went with Nitties' 68.

Nitties finished eight shots ahead of Japan's Haruo Fujishima in the individual race.

Flanagan battled tough, windy conditions to shoot his best round of the tournament after struggling with three months of constant travel.

"Yesterday for some reason I felt a lot more tired on the course than I had on the other days," Flanagan said. "I hit my driver really, really badly yesterday and just had too many drops.

Shannon lifts FedEx past SMB

GAME TODAY (Lipa City)
5 p.m.—Purefoods vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

TERRENCE Shannon shone on both ends of the court to lead the FedEx Express to an 84-76 win over the San Miguel Beermen last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Coming out flat defensively in his debut, Shannon provided several key stops on Shea Seals while exploding for 38 points and 14 rebounds as the Express rebounded from an opening-day setback to the Red Bull Barako Thunder last week.

"They're looking at me as a leader and I guess I somehow responded to the challenge," said Shannon, who proved to be a worthy replacement for Darrin Hancock, the first Express import who was shipped out after testing positive for marijuana use.

Shannon limited Seals to 14 points as he atoned for a lackluster defensive stance against Red Bull's Ramel Lloyd, who erupted for 43 points.

"It was the first time he played in the league so he was excused for that. Slowly, he's adjusting to our brand of play," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren.

Roger Yap and Yancy De Ocampo also made their presence felt.

Yap pumped in seven straight points, including back-to-back triples, that broke a 58-58 deadlock and gave the Express a 66-60 advantage.

De Ocampo also drained a three-pointer and added a mid-range jumper as the Express began pulling away, 73-64, halfway into the last quarter.

It was the second straight loss for the Beermen, who played without an import in their debut and took a narrow loss from Barangay Ginebra.

Seals, who just arrived the other day from the US, engaged Shannon in a shooting match in the third quarter only to lose steam entering the final 10 minutes.

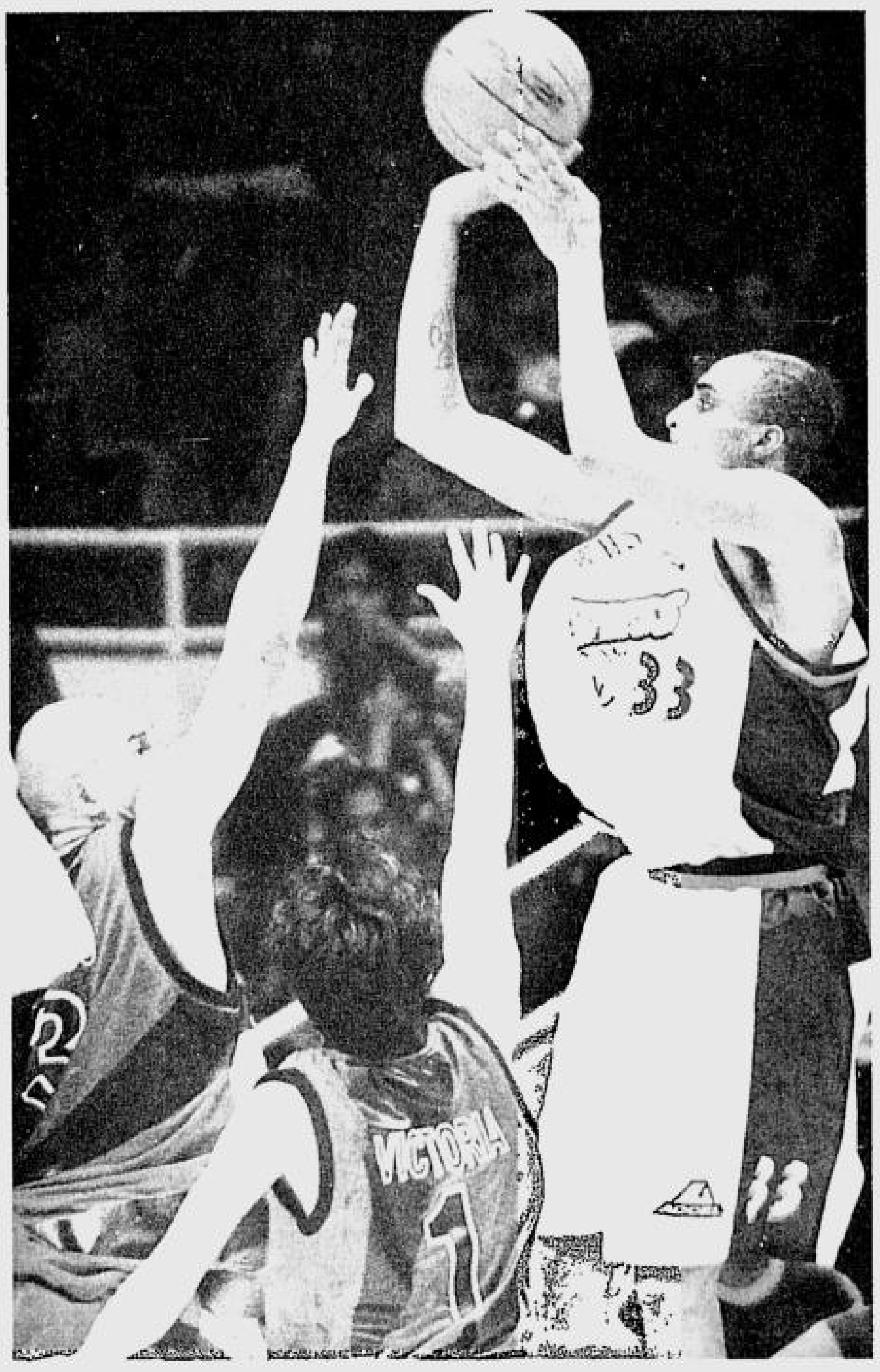
"We made sure we didn't get killed by their perimeter shots. In our past games, San Miguel blew us out with their outside shots," said Pumaren.

Scores:

FEDEX 84 —Shannon 38, Yap 15, De Ocampo 11, Meneses 9, Arboleda 7, Ferriols 2, Billones 2, Rodriguez 0, Ritualo 0, Ortiguera 0, Codinera 0.

SAN MIGUEL 76 —Ildefonso 26, Seals 14, Gahol 11, Belasco 9, Hontiveros 6, Victoria 6, Gamboa 2, Mente 2, Racela 0.

Quarters: 11-9, 31-28, 56-58, 84-76.



TERRENCE Shannon of Fedex Express shoots over Nic Belasco and Boybits Victoria of San Miguel. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

UST stakes cheering title today at Araneta

GAMES TODAY ***(Araneta Coliseum)***
2 p.m.—Cheering competition
4 p.m.—Adamson vs UP (Women)
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)

THE RIVETING UAAP men's basketball championship gets a rest as the much-awaited cheerleading competition takes the limelight today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ousted in the Final Four, Santo Tomas tries to uphold its No. 1 status in the league's most popular side event against a host of determined rivals bannered by University of the East and University of the Philippines.

The cheering competition starts at 2 p.m.

Basketball remains in the day's schedule, however, as unbeaten Adamson meets second-running UP in women's basketball at 4 p.m., followed by the 6 p.m. junior clash between pacesetter Ateneo and Santo Tomas.

The Ateneo-UST clash was moved from its original schedule last Thursday. The UP-National University junior tussle scheduled for today has been reset for Saturday at the Blue Eagles Gym.

Beaten last year by La Salle's Lady Archers, the Lady Falcons, bannered by 2001 SEA Games veteran Minerva Narciza and Dorothy Torres, are leading the field with eight straight wins, while the Camille Dowling-led Lady Maroons are toting an 8-1 record.

Both Adamson and UP are already in the Final 4.

Bannered by top MVP contender Ken Barracoso, Ateneo shows the way with a 9-1 record, while Santo Tomas sports a 5-4 mark in the juniors. Adamson is third with an 8-2 mark. *Dennis Eroa*

4th in Vietnam still difficult, says Dayrit

From page A21

athletes in many events," he added.

That leaves the fight for fourth place overall between Malaysia and the Philippines with both countries affected by the scrapping of several events like golf, bowling and squash.

Dayrit said Vietnam is unbeatable in fin swimming (16 events) and shuttlecock (seven events). The organizers also added 10 categories in wushu where they are considered strong.

Fin swimming involves the use of flippers and snorkels, while shuttlecock is similar to sepak takraw with the players using a rubber shuttlecock bigger than that used in badminton. Vietnam also introduced petanque which originated in Cambodia and is played like lawn bowling but only with a smaller ball.

The POC chief refused to predict how many golds the country would get or how high the country would finish.

"It's not easy to make a projection as to how many our athletes can win and how we will fare in the overall standings because this will depend a lot on the performance of other countries," said Dayrit.

Buhain agreed with Dayrit, but said he is sticking to his earlier 40-60 gold-medal projection.

"I can see it in their (athletes') eyes that they can succeed," said Buhain, who said he meets the national athletes every Monday morning at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The Philippines finished with 31 golds, 65 silvers and 67 bronzes in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG, yielding fourth place to Vietnam which garnered 33-35-63. Malaysia (110-75-85), Thailand (103-86-88) and Indonesia (72-73-80) placed first, second and third, respectively.

The SEAG is a host-friendly competition since the organizers not only enjoy home court edge, but they can also include in the calendar events where they have strong chances of winning.

The Philippines almost won the overall championship when it last hosted the event in 1991 and Dayrit hopes the country would emerge successful in 2005 when the SEAG returns to Manila.

Dayrit described as "very far from reality" Vietnam's prediction of winning only 70 gold medals in December.

Dayrit said Vietnam is probably downplaying its chances to surprise other countries not only from the sports they introduced but also in chess, shooting and wrestling.

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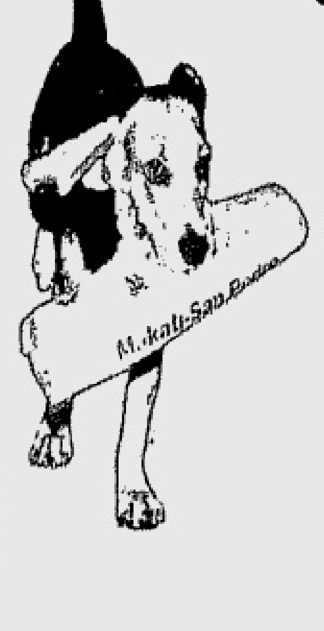

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SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I GOT hold of the statistics of players in the UAAP basketball tournament on Thursday. It struck me that Rich Alvarez, the power forward of Ateneo, was not in the Top 10 of MVP hopefuls. In seven games, his name was out of sight. Mark Cardona of La Salle, was tops after playing only six games. Mark Abadia of Adamson was second, Reynaldo Mendoza of NU third, James Yap of UE fourth, Larry Fonacier of Ateneo fifth, Arwind Santos of FEU sixth, Joseph Yeo of La Salle seventh, Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo eighth, Alwin Espiritu of UST ninth and LA Tenorio of Ateneo 10th.

Rich Alvarez tied for sixth with Fonacier in total free throws made: 22 charities in 7 games, with NU's Reynaldo Mendoza tops with 33, also in 7 games.

I dug up for more data. And I discovered Rich Alvarez was in the Top 10 of four other departments: Tied for 5-8 in steals (8), tied for 6-8 in blocks (7), seventh in assists (24) and fifth in total rebounds (53).

Studying the data, my first impression was, Rich Alvarez's game must have suffered a big dip this season. And I couldn't believe it.

I asked around. And I didn't find anything wrong with the man. I was told he was as healthy as an ox. His attitude toward the game was as impeccable as ever. Came early for practice. Came early for every game. Followed to the letter everything that his coach had ordered him to do. As obedient as any foot soldier can be. And yet, he wasn't there; no Top 10 this time.

This was the same man who had won the MVP twice, in 2000 and 2001. There must be a reason.

And I remembered Enrico Villanueva, Ateneo's megabuck center who was MVP last year before Red Bull Barako took him in for the 2003 PBA season. Enrico was Rich's bosom buddy at Ateneo until Enrico turned pro.

With Enrico as Ateneo's pillar, Rich had more than an ally in him: Enrico was Ateneo's Atlas. With Enrico around, Rich's job was not as gargantuan as what it is today. With Enrico gone, Rich had to virtually assume two roles—that of Enrico's (chief center) and of his own (power forward). No wonder Rich is No. 5 now in rebounds, even as he is not Ateneo's legitimate center; that position belongs more to either Paolo "Bugs" Bugia or Douglas Kramer. And yet, neither of them is in the Top 10 in the rebounds division.

It's a burdensome role Alvarez is assuming right now. And as thankless as the First Gentleman's predicament. But knowing Rich, he is not complaining. Will never complain.

You make him the workhorse and he'll respond with a smile as sweet as Julia Roberts'.

You make him the mule and he'll do his chores uncomplaining like the hunchback of Notre Dame.

He's been there before. Knows how it feels to be selected MVP. Twice at that. Each one gave him a different high. I don't know if he knows but should he manage to rally and win a third MVP, he'll be establishing a record in league history.

I'm sure he's not particularly aiming at a third MVP. Talking to his father some years back, I gathered that Rich is known as a team man more than anything. Of course, it helps that Rich has a former military man (US Navy) for a father: Teamwork and discipline are among the keys to success.

If it comes, it comes. If not, just fine. A third MVP will surely boost his stock. But in my book, it will just be the proverbial icing in the cake to a career whose apex resembles that of Mt. Everest. For, to me, Rich Alvarez, the most harnessed Eagle with an average playing time of 33 minutes per game (that's a mere 7 minutes of rest for him every game—a record in the league), is already an MVP no matter the outcome of the derby.

The trophy, if it comes at all, would be a mere validation.

***

FASTBREAK. Who said Mindanao is war-torn? On Sept. 27, General Santos City goes international when the Girlie S. Royeca School of Ballet stages "The Little Mermaid" at Lagao Gymnasium. It will be an international production, with artistic directors of the world-famed Atlanta Ballet Festival from Georgia, USA, in attendance—Gregory Aaron and Nicolas Pacana. Aaron and Pacana had flown over to choreograph the classic fairytale. Before the GenSan presentation, the show will be staged in Davao City's The Cap Auditorium on Sept. 20-21 through Gina Luz Bringas Suelto of Pointework Dance and Art Center Davao. From General Santos City, the production moves on to Cagayan de Oro at Capitol University Gymnasium on Oct. 4-5, with Ann-G Daque as artistic director. I think it would be a great idea if I'd first watch the show before I proceed to Mati to join Neil Bravo in the Mindanao Games next month. What do you think, *Pareng* Neil? Better yet, before meeting up with *Pareng* Neil, how about a stop in Tubod for the Palarong Pambansa on Oct. 8? As one saying goes, "All work and no play drives not the doctor away." Ballet—ah, it sets the mind a-flight.

Stags-Bombers, Knights-Cards in Final Four

By June Navarro

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help-Rizal played sluggish throughout but San Sebastian performed even badly as the Altas ripped the defending champion Stags, 76-66, yesterday at the end of the elimination round of the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags kept their twice-to-beat advantage but the loss dropped them to second place behind Letran and a Final Four meeting with Jose Rizal this Wednesday.

The Knights, who were ranked ahead of the Stags based on a tiebreaking quotient system announced by officials only yesterday, will now face the Mapua Cardinals in the other semifinal pairing.

The Cardinals finished fourth behind the JRU Heavy Bombers after taking a 75-64 loss to the Philippine Christian Dolphins.

As the top two teams in the eliminations, Letran and SSC need to win just once to arrange a best-of-three showdown for the title.

"We didn't play to lose and set up a semifinal clash with JRU. It just so happened that Perpetual had an impressive game," said San Sebastian coach Turo Valenzona, whose Stags trailed the Altas by 20 points at halftime.

"*Halos parehas lang sila pero may malalaki kasi ang* Mapua *sa ilalim kaya lamang sila* (They're almost even, but Mapua has a slight edge because of its big men)," said Valenzona.

Both Letran and SSC finished 9-5. Jose Rizal finished at 8-6 and Mapua 7-7.

Scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SSC-R 97—Busa 18, Valenzona 14, Soledad 12, Mariano 11, Tuliao 10, Agas 8, Buquid 5, Castelo 5, Gonzales 4, Quismorio 3, Juan 3, Avestro 2, Galang 2, Salamat 0, Balila 0.

UPHR 73—Lozano 18, Solema 16, Panganiban 11, Dela Cruz 9, Narvasa 6, Sanchez 3, J. Adriano 3, Bamba 3, Albano 2, Restauro 2, Ocampo 0, Jardiel 0, R. Adriano 0, Madridejo 0.

Quarters: 23-16, 40-40, 68-58, 97-73

Second Game (Srs)

UPHR 76—Misa 18, Cuenco 15, Barason 13, Joe 8, Javier 8, Mendoza 6, Botin 4, Balboa 2, Burgos 1, Quiazon 1, Santos 0, Tayer 0, Aseron 0.

SSC-R 66—Moore 21, Najorda 14, Baluyot 11, Vicente 8, Rebuya 5, Maneclang 3, Gonzales 3, Estole 1, Uy 0, Lim 0, Santos 0 Aguilar 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 47-27, 61-45, 76-66

Third Game (Srs)

PCU 74—Roque 27, Garrido 8, Sanz 7, Retaga 6, Cecilia 6, Belga 6, Castro 6, Benitez 5, Acraman 2, Somining 1, Salangsang 0.

MIT 65—Gonzales 15, Salud 11, Co 10, Guevarra 6, Dula 5, Malig 5, David 4, Lee 3, Veranga 2, Cruz 2, Martin 2, Sumalinog 0, Del Rosario 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN'S Ren Vicente tries to keep the ball away from Perpetual Help's Vladymir Joe in their game yesterday. The Altas won. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Eagles slip past Danes

DEFENDING champion Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay dumped Angeles University, 72-63, yesterday in the opener of the 2003 Philippine Schools, Colleges and Universities Athletic Association at the Rizal Coliseum.

Mac Garry del Pozo led the Pasay-based Eagles with 20 points. Wilfredo Casulla and Haydran Orcullo added 12 and 11 points, respectively for the Eagles, who led 44-32 at the half.

Menard Guevarra led the AUF Great Danes with 16 points and Ryan Joseph Steen added 11.

Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST) trounced Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig, 82-66.

Gilbert Payon led all scorers with 24 points, while Randolph Robles and Sir Lemuel Bitoon had 17 and 15 for the Stallions, who led by only a single point at the turn, 34-33.

AMA Computer University downed Bulacan State University, 92-84, in double overtime, while Asian Institute of Maritime Studies needed a five-minute extension to turn back Philippine State College of Aeronautics (Philsca), 93-92.

Action resumes with a full five game schedule today, Sept. 6, at the Arellano University Gym.

Today's five-game schedule at the Arellano University gym will start with the women's game between Technological University of the Philippines Taguig and Emilio Aguinaldo College at 1 p.m.

PLPasig tries to bounce back against TUP-Manila at 2:30, AUF clashes with Philsca at 4 and AIMS and Earist tangle at 5:30.

3 Asian quintets in Cebu Nat'l Open

M. LHUILLIER Kwarta Padala-Cebu, fresh off its first NBL National Championship last month, embarks on another challenge on home ground in the 2003 Trust Classic National Open set Sept. 11 to 17 at the New Cebu Coliseum.

M. Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba is fielding the same roster that won for the Cebuanos their first crown in a nationwide commercial league in 20 years.

But it will be a tough task, with three strong international teams in the fold—the national teams of Qatar, Jordan and Chinese-Taipei, which are all preparing for the Asian Basketball Confederation championship set Sept. 23-Oct. 3 in Harbin, China.

"I can't promise anything but we'll do our best. We know how strong our rivals are," said Alcoseba.

Alcoseba will be tapping the services of veteran imports Bobby Parks and Geremy Robinson to back up the local crew, led by NBL Mythical Five member and Finals MVP Arnold Rodriguez, Bruce Dacia and three-point shooters Ruben dela Rosa and Aldrin Ocanada.

Go tries to firm up karting bid

STANDINGS: KT LIGHT: 1. Blake Go 248 pts 2. Ken Monzones 196 pts. 3. Ivan Carapiet 185 pts. 4. Maico Angeles 168 pts. 5. Daniel Cleak 168 pts.

BLAKE Go of Team Cebu-Demvels tries to strengthen his championship bid when the sixth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series roars off tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Go, who finished only fourth in the last leg, kept the lead with 248 points in the KT Light class of the event sponsored by Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Danso and Eastway Racing.

But four other karters—Kam Tech Racing's Ken Monzones, Edgesports' Ivan Carapiet, Primus Racedevils' Maico Angeles and Daniel Cleak—pose strong threats for the crown.

Monzones, only 15, is running second overall with 196 points. Carapiet and Angeles, whose intense rivalry became the favorite highlight of the event, are in third and fourth with 185 and 168 points respectively.

Macatangay, 4 others vying in Asean jungolf

DESERT Junior Classic champion Terence Macatangay and four other Philippine bets leave for Kuala Lumpur today to see action in the Asean jungolf championships.

Also seeing action in the Sept. 10-12 event at the Saujana Golf and Country Club are Temecula International champions Tonlits Asistio, Marlo Capinianes, Jan Coup Tambogon and Quironi Baterna.

"The trip is part of our exposure stints this year and we hope to be able to come up with good finishes in the individual events," said Gerry Handog, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, under whose stewardship RP jungolfers posted a haul of trophies in the US recently.

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2003; 8 p.m. (r); 10 p.m. (r) and midnight; Star Sports—Check out the replay of the women's singles semifinals and men's doubles finals and the live airing of the men's singles semifinals from Flushing Meadows.

BILLIARDS: 2003 BCA Open 9-Ball Championships; 12 noon (r) and 6:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Witness how Efren "Bata" Reyes conquers the field in Las Vegas.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games—Sonics vs Bullets, Game 5, 1979 Finals; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Dennis and Gus Johnson lead Seattle against a Washington squad led by Wes Unseld.

China vs Melbourne Tigers; 7:30 p.m.; ESPN—The Chinese battle the Aussies in this exhibition match in Hong Kong.

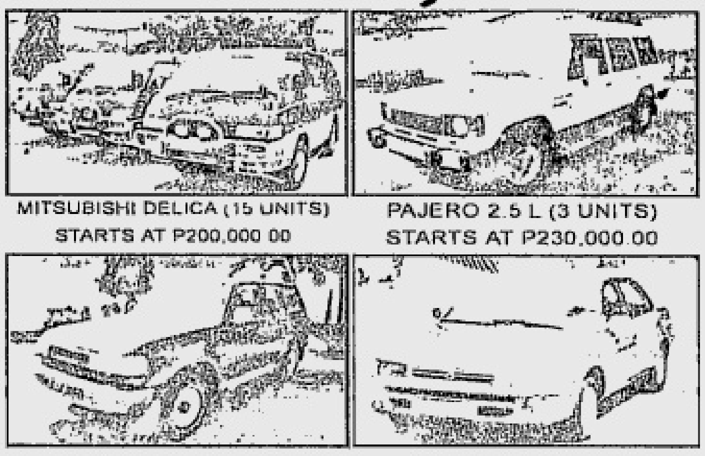
FIBA Euro Basket 2003; 8 p.m.; Solar Sports—Serbia and Montenegro clash with Russia in this Olympic qualifier.

Entertainers Basketball Classic; 10 p.m.: Solar Sports—Witness hoops action from the playgrounds of New York City.

BASEBALL: Dodgers vs Rockies; 9 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Los Angeles travels to Colorado in this NL match-up.

VOLLEYBALL: Volley Masters 2003; 3 p.m.; Solar Sports—Brazil takes on Japan in this prestigious tournament.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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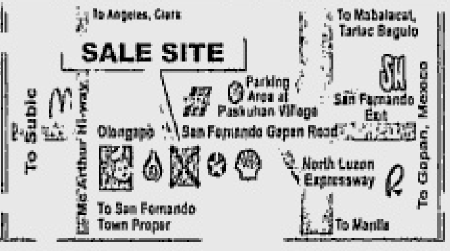

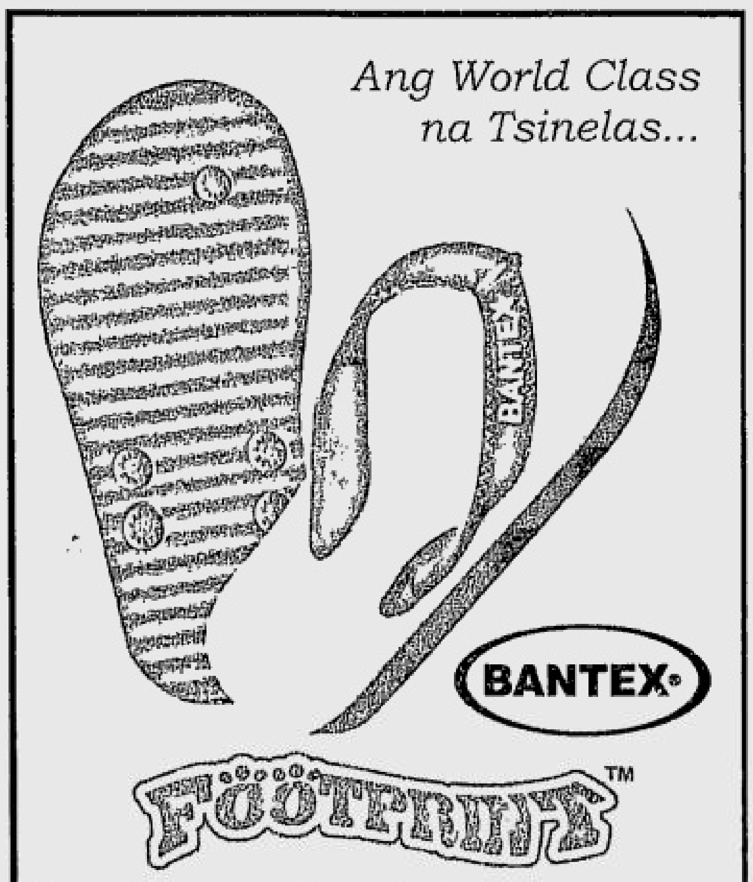

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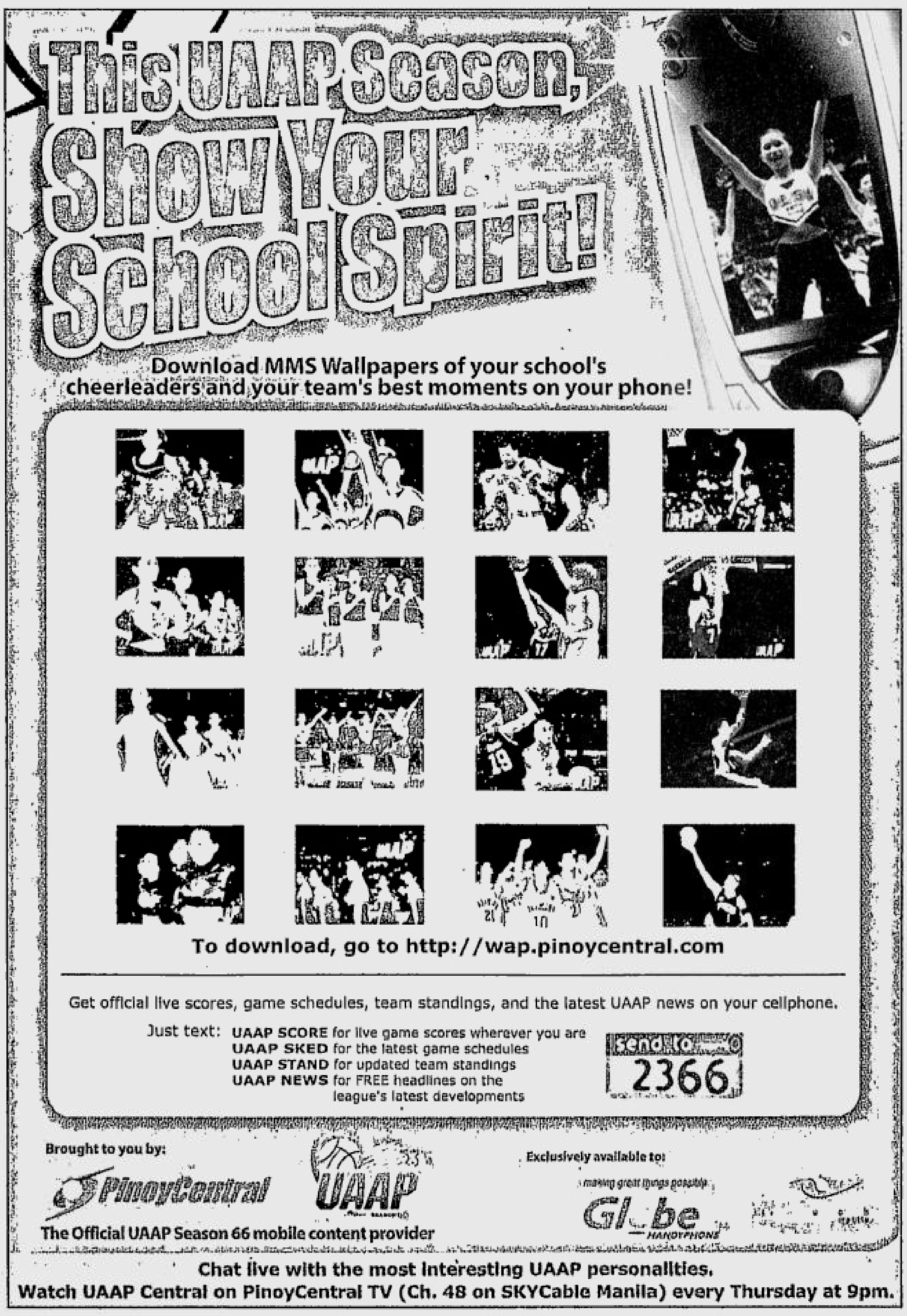

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SPORTSWATCH

Balce cops 12-under tennis title

MARK Balce of Ateneo stunned top seed Gerard Michael Ngo, 6-4, 2-6, 10-7, of Lourdes School last Sunday to win the boys' 12-under title in the Kadayawan-Head Penn Tennis Championships at the Flores Village courts in Davao City. In other boys results, Digos' Ian Delvo captured the 18-under title over Mati's James Pang, 6-1, 1-6, 10-8; Tupi's Miguel Antonio Pantua took the 16-under crown over Digos' Efren Macasinag, 6-4, 6-3; Tagum's El Santo Santos downed Juan Carlo Pantua, 6-0, 6-4, for the 14-under title and Malang's Patric Lin Solis wrapped up the unisex 10-under plum over Pikit's Jay Ann Cabilao, 6-1, 6-3. In the girls division, Tupi's Irene Mateo clinched the 18-under title over Mati's Patricia Adaza, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1; Davao City's Mary Ann Uy bagged the 16-under title over Irene Mateo, 6-1, 6-3; Bansalan's Yonee Mainar nailed down the 14-under title over Mati's Macy Serrano, 6-2, 6-3, and Digos' Eloisa Collo won the 12-under title over Cindy Gerapusco, 6-1, 6-1.

Best classes deadline today

TODAY is the deadline for aspiring young cagers to join the Milo Best Saturday and Sunday only classes at the Ateneo College covered courts, San Beda College and St. Benedict College. Saturday-only clinics are being held at Ateneo (8-11 a.m.) and San Beda (1-4 p.m.) while Sunday-only sessions are being conducted at St. Benedict (1-4 p.m.) Interested parties may contact Best Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Brgy. Laging Handa, QC (tel nos. 411-6260 and 372-3065), Sensie Salon/Dansei Groom Shop, 5th Flr., Manila Pavilion, UN Avenue (521-8191) and N-Zo by Dansei/Sensie, G/F Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate (528-8888, local 2916).

Everyday Is Your Birthday event

AN "Everyday Is Your Birthday" event will be held at the Cuneta Astrodome from 2-6 p.m. today. Organized by the Everyday Is Your Birthday Foundation, the event is for the benefit of Damas de Filipinas, White Cross for Children's orphanage, Hospicio de San Jose and Bahay Aruga. EIYBF founder-president Patricia Bermudez said the program will feature special performances, magic shows, puppet shows and story telling, parlor games, skills and relay games and a celebrity shoot-out contest. For details, call 0917-8477424 or e-mail sha.an@pacific. net.ph.

Banamos Futbol Fiesta set

FOOTBALL will share equal billing with the trade fair when Los Baños, Laguna holds a weeklong celebration dubbed Banamos Festival on Sept. 21-27. Edward Magallona, president of the Laguna Football Association (LFA), is inviting footballers from Metro Manila to check out the Pinoy "futbol" scene in the town, highlighted by tournaments featuring 60 or so teams from all over the province. The event is sponsored by Mayor Caesar Perez and will be held at the UP Los Baños football grounds.

Kidapawan go-for-goal final

KIDAPAWAN CITY—It will be Notre Dame of Kidapawan against Kidapawan National High in the final of the Kidapawan leg of the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal North Cotabato under-16 football tournament here. Notre Dame nosed out Makilala High, 1-0, while Kidapawan High shaded Amas National High, 2-1. The Kidapawan champion will meet with the winner of the M'lang leg, according to Jojo Rodriguez, Coke Go-for-Goal project director. Over in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, defending champion Isulan National High and Tacurong National High moved closer to a showdown for the provincial title.

Football-mad girls are back

THE METRO Manila Girls Football Association (MMGFA) begins with the Open and the 17-and-Under divisions kicking off this morning. At 8, it's the Open match between the International School of Manila and Faith Academy to be followed by the 17-Under contest between teams from the same schools. MMGFA commissioner Hans Smit said the following teams have registered for this years 'Open' tournament: Ateneo De Manila University, Alumnae Football Club, St. Benedict College, University of the Philippines (Teams A & B), College of St. Benilde, University of Santo Tomas and the Samsung Ladies Open champions, De La Salle University. The matches tomorrow pit Ateneo vs Alumnae FC at 3 p.m. in Ateneo; DLSU vs St. Benedict (17-Under) at 1 p.m.

Cycling elections cancelled

PHILIPPINE Amateur Cycling Association president Ponciano Regalado Jr. announced that the elections scheduled on Sept. 14 has been cancelled due to alleged irregularities in the processing of club affiliation forms. Regalado said that in accordance with the agreement with the POC Arbitration Committee, the General Elections shall be in February 2004.

Las Piñas 5-stag set Sept. 13

A SHOWDOWN among Metro Manila's big time cockers is expected during the Las Piñas 5-Stag Derby on Sept. 13. Host Gerry Ramos said the event, sponsored by Pagcor Casino Filipino Parañaque, is patterned after the one day encounters at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, Araneta and Cavite Coliseum. "The only difference is that this event is a stag derby so all the participants will be fielding their fowls for the first time. This will be very exciting," Ramos said. Entry fee is P55,000 while guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. Submission of weights is on Sept. 12 only, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call 873-1040.

Nat'l derby championship today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of Ray Showdown 7-Stag National Derby gets going at 2 p.m. today with 88 matches slated at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The leaders with three victories each are Leobeng Villarama (LB Engr.), Joey delos Santos (Battle of Champions), Rolly Ligon (Stag Festival Sept. 16), Arnel Pimentel of Laguna (Ms Liberty), Erwin Diamante (FreshWater), Boy Royo (BR-RLB), Noel Zoleta of Lucena City (Top of the Line) and lawyer Villarica (Villarica UMA). Hosts are Danny Ty and Romero Yu. Meanwhile, about 130 entries are expected in the upcoming "Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby" of top promoter Rolly Ligon on Sept. 16, 18 and 20. Entry fee is P6,600 while guaranteed prize is P1.2 million. For inquiries, contact tels. 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Rotary hosts Chairman's Cup

THE ROTARY Club of Rizal Mideast, Rotary International District 3800 will be hosting this year's Chairman's Cup golf tournament on Sept. 12 at the Mimosa Leisure Park, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga. Event organizers are Jun Sarreal, chair of the special event committee, golf tournament chair Eduardo Bagtas and club president Victorino Hoyumpa.

2 Filipinos in muaythai semis

ALMATY CITY, Kzakhstan—Two Filipinos are scheduled to fight in today's semifinal round of the 2003 Muaythai World Cup Championship here. Bryant Bagsiyao and Brent Velasco will be fighting in the 48- and 54-kg categories, respectively. They will be up against Kazakhs in their quest for gold medals. Accompanying Bagsiyao and Velasco in the tournament are national coach Robert Valdez and referee/judge Andy Galvez.

TRATHLON LOGO

DOT Director for Sports Tourism Cynthia Carrion, POC president Celso Dayrit, Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco, PSC commissioner Mike Barredo, PSC executive sirector Ed Mateo and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Tourism Manager Armin Santos unveil the new TRAP logo and 2004 Asian Triathlon Championship recently at Suburbia Manila.

US-Belgium showdown even wit

NEW YORK—There's not a Williams sister in sight but the US Open women's semifinals have managed to find some drama without the past four champions, thanks to a pair of United States versus Belgium showdowns.

World No.1 Kim Clijsters and second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, the French Open champion, will face home-nation favorites Lindsay Davenport and Jennifer Capriati here Friday for berths in Saturday's championship final.

CLIJSTERS

DAVENPORT

"That's what everybody has been talking about this whole tournament," Davenport said. "They want these match-ups. You know Kim and Justine want to play each other in the finals. Jennifer and I would love to face each other."

Both Serena and Venus Williams, who have met in six of the past eight Slam finals, are absent with injuries. Form has otherwise held here despite four days in a row of rains that disrupted schedules and tested patience.

"The last four days have just been a fog and now the semis are here," Capriati said. "It's like a differeni
most."

Clijsters faces Davenp
has already defeated four
without a loss, while Henı
a 3-2 mark against three-
ner Capriati.

"This is going to be the
Capriati said. "I have to pl
nis but expect much be
Even though I'm at the US
one you would think sho

US OPEN

Hewitt joins Agassi, Roddick in q'finals

NEW YORK—Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt advanced to the US Open quarterfinals here Thursday by defeating Asia's only men's hope, Thai 11th seed Paradorn Srichapan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Hewitt snapped Paradorn's eight-match win streak, denying him a trip to his first Slam quarterfinal.

Meanwhile, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick finally have six fellow quarterfinalists, after Hewitt, No. 3 Juan Carlos Ferrero, No. 5 Guillermo Coria, No. 12 Sjeng Schalken, No. 13 David Nalbandian and No. 22 Younes El Aynaoui won Thursday.

Hewitt, 22, rose to 5-1 lifetime against Paradorn, whose only win over him came last year at Tokyo. He won in two hours and 20 minutes, taking advantage of 62 unforced errors by Paradorn.

The Aussie speedster advanced to a quarterfinal against French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, the Spaniard who ended the remarkable run of 33-year-old American Todd Martin, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3.

Hewitt, the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon winner, was top seed at seven Slams in a row before a first-round loss at Wimbledon to qualifier Ivo Karlovic.

Paradorn became the first Asian in the ATP Top 10 after a January title in Chennai.

Top-seeded Kim Clijsters moved a step closer to her first Grand Slam title, beating No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo, 6-1, 6-4, in the women's quarterfinals on Thursday.

Clijsters set up a semifinal against 1998 US Open champion Lindsay Davenport, who defeated No. 24 Paola Suarez, 6-4, 6-0.

Three-time major champion Jennifer Capriati also reached the semifinals, which will be played Friday, by eliminating No. 29 Francesca Schiavone, 6-1, 6-3. Their quarterfinal started about 3 1/2 hours after Schiavone completed her victory over No. 15 Ai Sugiyama in a match which started Monday but took four days to wrap up.

Capriati's next opponent is No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne, the French Open champion who reached her first US Open semifinal by topping No. 7 Anastasia Myskina, 6-2, 6-3. Like Schiavone, Myskina had to complete a suspended fourth-round match—she beat Mary Pierce in two sets—before heading out to play in the quarterfinals.

Nalbandian registered the biggest upset on paper, knocking off No. 2 Roger Federer, the reigning Wimbledon champion, 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3. Nalbandian has won all five of their pro meetings.

Clijsters took a 3-2 head-to-head edge into her match against Mauresmo, who made 34 unforced errors—21 more than the Belgian.

"I just tried to rest as good as possible and try not to worry about the weather, because it was pretty frustrating," said Clijsters, who led 3-0 when the match was stopped because of rain Wednesday. "The first few days it happened, the players were laughing. The more we saw the rain coming, we just got more depressed—all of us."

If the tournament stays on schedule, the men who played Thursday would have to play four matches in four days, while Agassi (who won his fourth-round match Tuesday) and Roddick (Wednesday) will be fresher. Agassi plays Coria on Friday, when Roddick faces Schalken.

"It was very, very tough for everybody," Nalbandian said. "Agassi and Roddick get an advantage over everybody else. But I think I'm ready to play four matches in a row."

Because a total of only four matches were completed from Monday through Wednesday, the waterlogged tournament began Thursday with a backlog of 174 matches. That was alleviated somewhat by the cancellation of the junior doubles events, while junior singles matches were moved to an indoor tennis club 25 miles (40 km) away. *AFP*

TANAKA signals to the crowd to stop crossing the fairway as he prepares to tee off on the 18th hole. AP

Tanaka leads big guns in C

HAMILTON, Ontario, Canada—Japan's Hidemichi Tanaka took advantage of favorable early conditions to shoot a four-under-par 66 for the first-round lead at the Canadian Open on Thursday.

Charles Howell III and Brad Faxon are among a group of five players tied for second, just one stroke behind the leader.

Kelly Gibson, Glen Day and Tom Byrum are the other three players on three-under 67.

One shot behind that group are seven players, including former British Open champion Tom Lehman, who carded 68 over the Hamilton Golf and Country Club course.

Several prominent players encountered major problems in the opening round, however, notably Fiji's Vijay Singh who, despite being the highest-ranked player in the tournament at number four in the world, shot a five-over 75.

Defending champion John Rollins also recorded a 75.

Also struggling was Adam Scott, who won his first PGA Tour title last week in the Deutsche Bank Championship. The Australian stumbled to a four-over 74.

Local favorite Mike Weir, the US Masters champion and world number six, fared much b
ished well in contentio
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Tanaka, a 32-year-
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but has only one top
show for his efforts.

His best finish this
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Those who teed-off

Dream is closer for McLaren's 'Ice

LONDON—Fernando Alonso became Formula One's youngest race winner last month and the next few weeks will make or break Kimi Raikkonen's hopes of becoming the youngest champion.

McLaren's 23-year-old "Iceman" has had a remarkable season, leading for some time and eclipsing more experienced team mate David Coulthard.

The final three races—Italy next week, the United States later this month and the season's closer in Japan on Oct. 12—will decide whether Ferrari's Michael Schumacher, Williams' Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya or Raikkonen takes the title.

"Anything can happen now," Raikkonen said after last month's Hungarian Grand Prix left Schumacher on 72 points, Montoya with 71 and Raikkonen 70.

Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone suspects that the 2003 champion will be fluent in Finnish rather than German or Spanish.

"I'm one of Montoya's biggest supporters and we all know about Michael," he told reporters this week. "Montoya can be either fantastic or not. Raikkonen is more consistent so you would probably have to put your money on him."

When Spain's Alonso won the Hungarian Grand Prix for Renault, aged 22 years and 26 days, he looked forward to his own title challenge one day.

For Raikkonen the dream is closer. He could be 2003 champion without winning another race if each of his rivals suffers a retirement.

Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi and Schumacher were both 25 when they won their first titles and no driver has been champion at a younger age.

Raikkonen has enjoyed a remarkable turnaround in a season that was expected to serve as a backdrop to Schumacher's historic sixth crown.

But Schumacher's hopes of a fourth successive title are looking fragile and Raikkonen has played a big part in establishing the new order.

He and Montoya have each appeared on the podium eight times in 13 races, more than any other driver, with Raikkonen a runner-up in five grands prix as well as winner in Malaysia.

Williams and Ferrari are favorites for Monza but McLaren's impressive form in testing at the circuit this week suggests they could have something up their sleeve.

Raikkonen replaced compatriot and former champion Mika Hakkinen at McLaren at the end of 2001 after bursting into the sport with Sauber.

So precocious was he, with just 23 single-seat races to his name in Formula Renault, that the governing FIA put him on probation for the first four races.

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SPORTSWATCH

Balce cops 12-under tennis title

MARK Balce of Ateneo stunned top seed Gerard Michael Ngo, 6-4, 2-6, 10-7, of Lourdes School last Sunday to win the boys' 12-under title in the Kadayawan-Head Penn Tennis Championships at the Flores Village courts in Davao City. In other boys results, Digos' Ian Delvo captured the 18-under title over Mati's James Pang, 6-1, 1-6, 10-8; Tupi's Miguel Antonio Pantua took the 16-under crown over Digos' Efren Macasinag, 6-4, 6-3; Tagum's El Santo Santos downed Juan Carlo Pantua, 6-0, 6-4, for the 14-under title and Malang's Patric Lin Solis wrapped up the unisex 10-under plum over Pikit's Jay Ann Cabilao, 6-1, 6-3. In the girls division, Tupi's Irene Mateo clinched the 18-under title over Mati's Patricia Adaza, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1; Davao City's Mary Ann Uy bagged the 16-under title over Irene Mateo, 6-1, 6-3; Bansalan's Yonee Mainar nailed down the 14-under title over Mati's Macy Serrano, 6-2, 6-3, and Digos' Eloisa Collo won the 12-under title over Cindy Gerapusco, 6-1, 6-1.

Best classes deadline today

TODAY is the deadline for aspiring young cagers to join the Milo Best Saturday and Sunday only classes at the Ateneo College covered courts, San Beda College and St. Benedict College. Saturday-only clinics are being held at Ateneo (8-11 a.m.) and San Beda (1-4 p.m.) while Sunday-only sessions are being conducted at St. Benedict (1-4 p.m.) Interested parties may contact Best Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Brgy. Laging Handa, QC (tel nos. 411-6260 and 372-3065), Sensie Salon/Dansei Groom Shop, 5th Flr., Manila Pavilion, UN Avenue (521-8191) and N-Zo by Dansei/Sensie, G/F Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate (528-8888, local 2916).

Everyday Is Your Birthday event

AN "Everyday Is Your Birthday" event will be held at the Cuneta Astrodome from 2-6 p.m. today. Organized by the Everyday Is Your Birthday Foundation, the event is for the benefit of Damas de Filipinas, White Cross for Children's orphanage, Hospicio de San Jose and Bahay Aruga. EIYBF founder-president Patricia Bermudez said the program will feature special performances, magic shows, puppet shows and story telling, parlor games, skills and relay games and a celebrity shoot-out contest. For details, call 0917-8477424 or e-mail sha.an@pacific. net.ph.

Banamos Futbol Fiesta set

FOOTBALL will share equal billing with the trade fair when Los Baños, Laguna holds a weeklong celebration dubbed Banamos Festival on Sept. 21-27. Edward Magallona, president of the Laguna Football Association (LFA), is inviting footballers from Metro Manila to check out the Pinoy "futbol" scene in the town, highlighted by tournaments featuring 60 or so teams from all over the province. The event is sponsored by Mayor Caesar Perez and will be held at the UP Los Baños football grounds.

Kidapawan go-for-goal final

KIDAPAWAN CITY—It will be Notre Dame of Kidapawan against Kidapawan National High in the final of the Kidapawan leg of the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal North Cotabato under-16 football tournament here. Notre Dame nosed out Makilala High, 1-0, while Kidapawan High shaded Amas National High, 2-1. The Kidapawan champion will meet with the winner of the M'lang leg, according to Jojo Rodriguez, Coke Go-for-Goal project director. Over in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, defending champion Isulan National High and Tacurong National High moved closer to a showdown for the provincial title.

Football-mad girls are back

THE METRO Manila Girls Football Association (MMGFA) begins with the Open and the 17-and-Under divisions kicking off this morning. At 8, it's the Open match between the International School of Manila and Faith Academy to be followed by the 17-Under contest between teams from the same schools. MMGFA commissioner Hans Smit said the following teams have registered for this years 'Open' tournament: Ateneo De Manila University, Alumnae Football Club, St. Benedict College, University of the Philippines (Teams A & B), College of St. Benilde, University of Santo Tomas and the Samsung Ladies Open champions, De La Salle University. The matches tomorrow pit Ateneo vs Alumnae FC at 3 p.m. in Ateneo; DLSU vs St. Benedict (17-Under) at 1 p.m.

Cycling elections cancelled

PHILIPPINE Amateur Cycling Association president Ponciano Regalado Jr. announced that the elections scheduled on Sept. 14 has been cancelled due to alleged irregularities in the processing of club affiliation forms. Regalado said that in accordance with the agreement with the POC Arbitration Committee, the General Elections shall be in February 2004.

Las Piñas 5-stag set Sept. 13

A SHOWDOWN among Metro Manila's big time cockers is expected during the Las Piñas 5-Stag Derby on Sept. 13. Host Gerry Ramos said the event, sponsored by Pagcor Casino Filipino Parañaque, is patterned after the one day encounters at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, Araneta and Cavite Coliseum. "The only difference is that this event is a stag derby so all the participants will be fielding their fowls for the first time. This will be very exciting," Ramos said. Entry fee is P55,000 while guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. Submission of weights is on Sept. 12 only, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call 873-1040.

Nat'l derby championship today

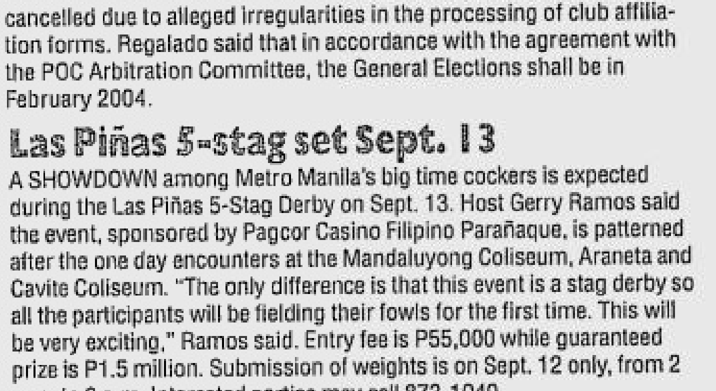
THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of Ray Showdown 7-Stag National Derby gets going at 2 p.m. today with 88 matches slated at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The leaders with three victories each are Leobeng Villarama (LB Engr.), Joey delos Santos (Battle of Champions), Rolly Ligon (Stag Festival Sept. 16), Arnel Pimentel of Laguna (Ms Liberty), Erwin Diamante (FreshWater), Boy Royo (BR-RLB), Noel Zoleta of Lucena City (Top of the Line) and lawyer Villarica (Villarica UMA). Hosts are Danny Ty and Romero Yu. Meanwhile, about 130 entries are expected in the upcoming "Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby" of top promoter Rolly Ligon on Sept. 16, 18 and 20. Entry fee is P6,600 while guaranteed prize is P1.2 million. For inquiries, contact tels. 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Rotary hosts Chairman's Cup

THE ROTARY Club of Rizal Mideast, Rotary International District 3800 will be hosting this year's Chairman's Cup golf tournament on Sept. 12 at the Mimosa Leisure Park, Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga. Event organizers are Jun Sarreal, chair of the special event committee, golf tournament chair Eduardo Bagtas and club president Victorino Hoyumpa.

2 Filipinos in muaythai semis

ALMATY CITY, Kzakhstan—Two Filipinos are scheduled to fight in today's semifinal round of the 2003 Muaythai World Cup Championship here. Bryant Bagsiyao and Brent Velasco will be fighting in the 48- and 54-kg categories, respectively. They will be up against Kazakhs in their quest for gold medals. Accompanying Bagsiyao and Velasco in the tournament are national coach Robert Valdez and referee/judge Andy Galvez.



TRATHLON LOGO
DOT Director for Sports Tourism Cynthia Carrion, POC president Celso Dayrit, Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco, PSC commissioner Mike Barredo, PSC executive sirector Ed Mateo and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Tourism Manager Armin Santos unveil the new TRAP logo and 2004 Asian Triathlon Championship recently at Suburbia Manila.

US-Belgium showdown even wit

NEW YORK—There's not a Williams sister in sight but the US Open women's semifinals have managed to find some drama without the past four champions, thanks to a pair of United States versus Belgium showdowns.

World No.1 Kim Clijsters and second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, the French Open champion, will face home-nation favorites Lindsay Davenport and Jennifer Capriati here Friday for berths in Saturday's championship final.

CLIJSTERS

DAVENPORT

"That's what everybody has been talking about this whole tournament," Davenport said. "They want these match-ups. You know Kim and Justine want to play each other in the finals. Jennifer and I would love to face each other."

Both Serena and Venus Williams, who have met in six of the past eight Slam finals, are absent with injuries. Form has otherwise held here despite four days in a row of rains that disrupted schedules and tested patience.

"The last four days have just been a fog and now the semis are here," Capriati said. "It's like a differe
most."

Clijsters faces Daven
has already defeated fo
without a loss, while He
a 3-2 mark against thr
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"This is going to be th
Capriati said. "I have to p
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US OPEN

Hewitt joins Agassi, Roddick in q'finals

NEW YORK—Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt advanced to the US Open quarterfinals here Thursday by defeating Asia's only men's hope, Thai 11th seed Paradorn Srichapan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Hewitt snapped Paradorn's eight-match win streak, denying him a trip to his first Slam quarterfinal.

Meanwhile, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick finally have six fellow quarterfinalists, after Hewitt, No. 3 Juan Carlos Ferrero, No. 5 Guillermo Coria, No. 12 Sjeng Schalken, No. 13 David Nalbandian and No. 22 Younes El Aynaoui won Thursday.

Hewitt, 22, rose to 5-1 lifetime against Paradorn, whose only win over him came last year at Tokyo. He won in two hours and 20 minutes, taking advantage of 62 unforced errors by Paradorn.

The Aussie speedster advanced to a quarterfinal against French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, the Spaniard who ended the remarkable run of 33-year-old American Todd Martin, 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3.

Hewitt, the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon winner, was top seed at seven Slams in a row before a first-round loss at Wimbledon to qualifier Ivo Karlovic.

Paradorn became the first Asian in the ATP Top 10 after a January title in Chennai.

Top-seeded Kim Clijsters moved a step closer to her first Grand Slam title, beating No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo, 6-1, 6-4, in the women's quarterfinals on Thursday.

Clijsters set up a semifinal against 1998 US Open champion Lindsay Davenport, who defeated No. 24 Paola Suarez, 6-4, 6-0.

Three-time major champion Jennifer Capriati also reached the semifinals, which will be played Friday, by eliminating No. 29 Francesca Schiavone, 6-1, 6-3. Their quarterfinal started about 3 1/2 hours after Schiavone completed her victory over No. 15 Ai Sugiyama in a match which started Monday but took four days to wrap up.

Capriati's next opponent is No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne, the French Open champion who reached her first US Open semifinal by topping No. 7 Anastasia Myskina, 6-2, 6-3. Like Schiavone, Myskina had to complete a suspended fourth-round match—she beat Mary Pierce in two sets—before heading out to play in the quarterfinals.

Nalbandian registered the biggest upset on paper, knocking off No. 2 Roger Federer, the reigning Wimbledon champion, 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3. Nalbandian has won all five of their pro meetings.

Clijsters took a 3-2 head-to-head edge into her match against Mauresmo, who made 34 unforced errors—21 more than the Belgian.

"I just tried to rest as good as possible and try not to worry about the weather, because it was pretty frustrating," said Clijsters, who led 3-0 when the match was stopped because of rain Wednesday. "The first few days it happened, the players were laughing. The more we saw the rain coming, we just got more depressed—all of us."

If the tournament stays on schedule, the men who played Thursday would have to play four matches in four days, while Agassi (who won his fourth-round match Tuesday) and Roddick (Wednesday) will be fresher. Agassi plays Coria on Friday, when Roddick faces Schalken.

"It was very, very tough for everybody," Nalbandian said. "Agassi and Roddick get an advantage over everybody else. But I think I'm ready to play four matches in a row."

Because a total of only four matches were completed from Monday through Wednesday, the waterlogged tournament began Thursday with a backlog of 174 matches. That was alleviated somewhat by the cancellation of the junior doubles events, while junior singles matches were moved to an indoor tennis club 25 miles (40 km) away. *AFP*

TANAKA signals to the crowd to stop crossing the fairway as he prepares to tee off on the 18th hole. AP

Tanaka leads big guns in C

HAMILTON, Ontario, Canada—Japan's Hidemichi Tanaka took advantage of favorable early conditions to shoot a four-under-par 66 for the first-round lead at the Canadian Open on Thursday.

Charles Howell III and Brad Faxon are among a group of five players tied for second, just one stroke behind the leader.

Kelly Gibson, Glen Day and Tom Byrum are the other three players on three-under 67.

One shot behind that group are seven players, including former British Open champion Tom Lehman, who carded 68 over the Hamilton Golf and Country Club course.

Several prominent players encountered major problems in the opening round, however, notably Fiji's Vijay Singh who, despite being the highest-ranked player in the tournament at number four in the world, shot a five-over 75.

Defending champion John Rollins also recorded a 75.

Also struggling was Adam Scott, who won his first PGA Tour title last week in the Deutsche Bank Championship. The Australian stumbled to a four-over 74.

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But Schumacher's hopes of a fourth successive title are looking fragile and Raikkonen has played a big part in establishing the new order.

He and Montoya have each appeared on the podium eight times in 13 races, more than any other driver, with Raikkonen a runner-up in five grands prix as well as winner in Malaysia.

Williams and Ferrari are favorites for Monza but McLaren's impressive form in testing at the circuit this week suggests they could have something up their sleeve.

Raikkonen replaced compatriot and former champion Mika Hakkinen at McLaren at the end of 2001 after bursting into the sport with Sauber.

So precocious was he, with just 23 single-seat races to his name in Formula Renault, that the governing FIA put him on probation for the first four races.

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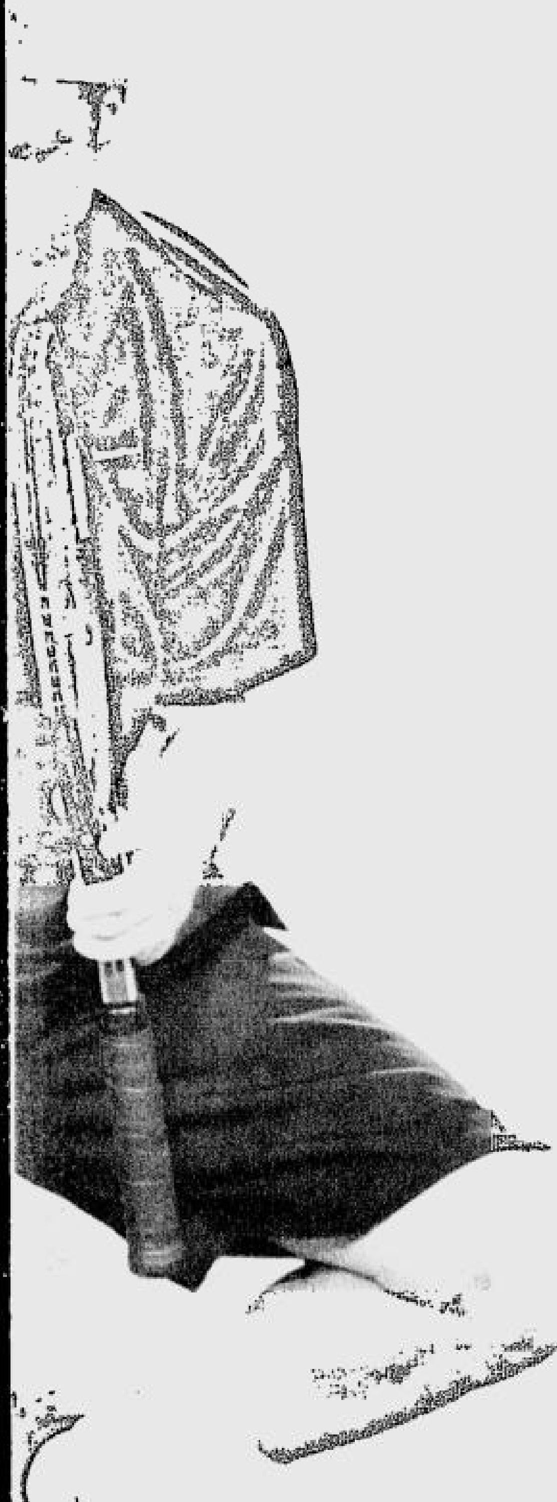
Capriati later admitted, "On the inside I think I'm the one who should win."

Henin-Hardenne resisted the favorite's tag as well. All five of their matches have gone three sets and Capriati is coming off a victory in the final Open tune-up at New Haven, her first title since the 2002 Australian Open.

"Jennifer is playing at home in front of a crowd. They are going to be behind her," Henin-Hardenne said. "Even if I'm the favorite on paper because of the ranking, it doesn't mean anything. Jennifer is playing great tennis."

"I'm confident for sure, in the US Open semifinals for the first time. I'm getting more experience. My game is more powerful than in past years. It will be a big match for me, too."

Clijsters is the first women's world No.1 without a Grand Slam title, a knock she hopes to erase here after dispatching Davenport. *AFP*



HEWITT celebrates a point against Thailand's Srichapan.
REUTERS

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ing averaged 72.19 strokes, while those who started in the afternoon were 1.32 strokes higher at 73.51.

After an early bogey at the third hole, Tanaka recorded five birdies for his four-under total.

"The course is very tough," Tanaka said.

"It's not a long course. The important thing is where I put the ball on the fairway, so I just concentrated on that point.

". . . I knew that good management is important on this course." Tanaka struggled a bit with his accuracy off the tee, hitting just eight of 14 fairways. *Reuters*

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orld champion. *Reuters*

RAIKKONEN: Champion in waiting.
GETTY IMAGES

Chang ends net career on high note

NEW YORK—Michael Chang knelt down and performed his signature fist pump one final time for the New York fans he came to love.

Chang, whose retirement became official when he lost last week, was honored at the US Open on Thursday night after the tribute was postponed twice because of rain. He received a long standing ovation in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where he waved to the crowd as he walked around the court for the last time.

CHANG
AFP

"He's one of the great champions in the history of American tennis," Patrick McEnroe said. "All of us respected your intensity, your passion, your desire."

The 31-year-old Chang played in 17 straight US Opens, losing to 15th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, 6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4, in the first round of his final appearance at Flushing Meadows.

Chang said even though he won only two of 12 matches all year, he was happy at the end. His brother and longtime coach, Carl, was by his side, and so was his mother, Betty.

"It's every professional athlete's dream to finish on a high note," he said. "I can honestly say, from the bottom of my heart, I've finished on a high note. And there's no other way I'd want to finish my career."

Chang announced in January that the Open would be the final event of his 16th tour. *AP*

Nalbandian plays spoiler's role to the hilt

NEW YORK—Wimbledon champion Roger Federer's US Open run juddered to a halt on Thursday when he was bounced by his Argentine bogeyman but Kim Clijsters was on fine form as rain clouds finally cleared from Flushing Meadows.

NALBANDIAN

Federer, seeded second here on the back of his grasscourt grand slam triumph, fell once again to Argentine David Nalbandian, this time 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The stocky 21-year-old from Cordoba has now beaten Federer all five times they have met on the Tour— three times this year.

"I guess I am struggling against him," Federer smiled wryly.

"I am trying to figure out how to beat him. He likes my game, that's all I can say about it."

Thirteenth seed Nalbandian, himself a finalist at Wimbledon last year, was also at a loss to explain his hold over the stylish Swiss player.

"I like playing against him, what can I say?" he laughed. Reuters

ST. LOUIS Cardinals infielder Edgar Renteria upends Chicago Cubs second baseman Mark Grudzielanek after being forced out on a hit by Miguel Cairo in the first inning.
EPA

Cubs nip Cardinals without Sosa, close in on idle Astros

CHICAGO—Tony Womack singled in the go-ahead run and the Chicago Cubs ended a five-game series by beating the St. Louis Cardinals, 7-6, Thursday despite Sammy Sosa's ejection.

The Cubs won four of five and moved within a half-game of idle Houston for first place in Major League Baseball's NL Central. St. Louis is third, a game behind the Astros.

The series featured a little bit of everything: A rain delay of more than four hours Monday; a day-night doubleheader which included a 15-inning opener; the ejection of three Cubs players and pitching coach Larry Rothschild; a shouting match between managers Dusty Baker and Tony La Russa, and a stunning comeback by the Cubs to win Wednesday after trailing 6-0.

Womack, who entered in a double switch, singled in the seventh off Mike DeJean (5-8).

Pinch-hitter Mike Matheny had an RBI single off Mike Remlinger (6-5) to tie it in the seventh. Joe Borowski got his 24th save in 28 chances.

In Miami, Miguel Cabrera and Alex Gonzalez emerged from slumps and sparked a four-run seventh inning to help Florida beat Pittsburgh.

Cabrera singled home the go-ahead run and Gonzalez followed with his 16th home run. Cabrera began the game in a 1-for-33 slump and Gonzalez was 1-for-25.

Pinch-hitter Ramon Castro, batting for the first time since he was charged with raping a woman in his Pittsburgh hotel room last week, hit his fourth home run in the seventh.

The first of Florida's three homers was by Juan Pierre—his first in 572 at-bats this season.

Pittsburgh's Matt Stairs hit his 17th homer for the only run off Carl Pavano, who went 6 1-3 innings. Michael Tejera (2-3) stranded the potential go-ahead run at second in the seventh.

Salomon Torres (5-4) took the loss. *AP*

FIVE-TIME Tour de France winner with estranged wife Kristin.
REUTERS

Armstrong separates from wife, seeks divorce

AUSTIN, Texas—Five-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong has separated from his wife of five years, Kristin, and the couple are seeking a divorce, the Austin American-Stateman newspaper reported on Thursday.

Armstrong said the couple separated shortly after his fifth straight win in the world-famous race at the end of July.

The 31-year-old Lance said: "We both have legal representation and we're doing this peacefully. The craziest thing is, we're closer now and better friends than ever before. We're truly committed to maintaining a good relationship, but not a marriage." Kristin, 32, said: "It's an unfortunate situation. We are making the best of it for the sake of our kids." Both have decided to remain living in Austin, Texas, but at different addresses.

The couple separated for the first time in January with the news becoming public a month later.

The Armstrong family—they have three children—were united on July 27 to celebrate his fifth straight victory in Paris, one win short of the all-time Tour de France record. *AFP*

Rodman arrested for alleged drunkenness

NEWPORT BEACH, California—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman was released from jail Thursday after being arrested earlier for investigation of being drunk in public.

The former NBA player was arrested after police received a call that he was driving his boat in Newport Harbor while under the influence of alcohol, Orange County Sheriff's spokesperson Jim Amormino said.

"When we got there, Mr. Rodman was at the dock next to the (restaurant) attempting to untie the boat. Deputies observed Mr. Rodman fail to the ground," Amormino said. "They interviewed him and determined he was under the influence of alcohol, unable to care for himself or his property."

Rodman, 42, was released Thursday night from the Newport Beach jail. A police lieutenant told KCAL-TV that Rodman was held to give him a chance to "sober up."

Outside the jail, Rodman told reporters he fell because he was walking backward.

Since Rodman retired from the NBA, Newport Beach police have gone to his home more than 70 times because of loud parties. He also was convicted of drunken driving. Last year, he was arrested and accused of obstructing officers investigating a code violation at his seaside restaurant. Prosecutors did not press charges. *AP*

WNCAA leaders face lowly foes

GAMES TODAY
Basketball, *St. Scho gym*
8 a.m. RTU vs MC (Jrs)
9:30 a.m. Angelicum vs DSL-7 (Jrs)
11 a.m. SSC vs AC (Jrs)
12:30 p.m. CKSC vs AC (midget)
2 p.m. UA-P vs Siena (Srs)
3:30 p.m. CSB vs EAC-M (Srs)
5 p.m Lyceum vs AC (Srs)
6:30 p.m. SBC vs SSC (Srs)
Volleyball, *Lyceum gym*
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5 p.m. AC vs Lyceum (Srs)
6:30 p.m. EAC-M vs SSC (Srs)

ST. BENEDICT College and defending champion Lyceum try to maintain their 1-2 positions today when they tangle with lowly rivals as the 34th WNCAA-adidas basketball tournament resumes with a heavy 8-game schedule at the St. Scho gym.

A fifth straight win seemed in the works for St. Benedict which will face winless St. Scholastica's College (0-5) at 6:30 p.m.

Lyceum shoots for a fourth straight victory against Assumption at 5 p.m. after two matches featuring the second-running College of St. Benilde and University of the Assumption-Pampanga against separate rivals.

St. Benilde (2-1) takes on Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila (1-3) at 3:30 p.m. while UA-P (2-1) tackles Siena College of Quezon City (2-2) earlier at 2.

In the juniors division, leader St. Scho will be up against Assumption College at 11 a.m. while Assumption seeks a share of the top spot in the midget level when it meets Chiang Kai Shek College at 12:30 p.m.

The 34th WNCAA-adidas is being sponsored by Gold's Gym, Procter and Gamble, Goldilock's, Rustan's Essenses, Island Cove resorts, Cadbury, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, RPN 9 and Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Over at the Lyceum gym, the UA-P-Miriam College tussle at 2 p.m. will start off four seniors volleyball matches.

Rizal Technological University plays College of St. Benilde at 3:30 p.m., defending champion Lyceum will mix it up with Assumption at 5 p.m., while the 6:30 p.m. main game will feature EAC-M versus St. Scho.

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EURO CAGING

Spurs' Parker stirs French connection

LULEA, Sweden—France has played 30 of 32 European Championships, but never once took the title.

Now, with NBA champion Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs and three other NBA players on the roster, "Les Bleus" might finally do it.

France begins its quest Friday with a first-round game against Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Coop Arena in this northern Swedish coastal city, just south of the Arctic Circle.

The French may be the team to beat in the 10-day tournament, but certainly didn't look like gold-medal contenders when they suffered a stunning 89-84 loss to Sweden in a warm-up game Monday in the capital, Stockholm.

"We have no excuse, but we'll have to bounce back and take this defeat positively," said Parker, the speedy point guard who had 32 points and eight assists against the host country.

The first Frenchman to win an NBA title, Parker has a different role on the national team. For France, the 21-year-old Belgium-born star is the center of operations. In Texas, he's the workhorse and plays second fiddle to NBA MVP Tim Duncan.

France, coached by Alain Weisz, has the most NBA players of the 16 teams playing in Sweden. The others include Tariq Abdul-Wahad of the Dallas Mavericks, who became the first Frenchman in the NBA when he made his debut for the Sacramento Kings in 1997; Boris Diaw of the Atlanta Hawks and Jerome Moiso of the Toronto Raptors.

France's best finish in the European Championships' history was second in 1949.

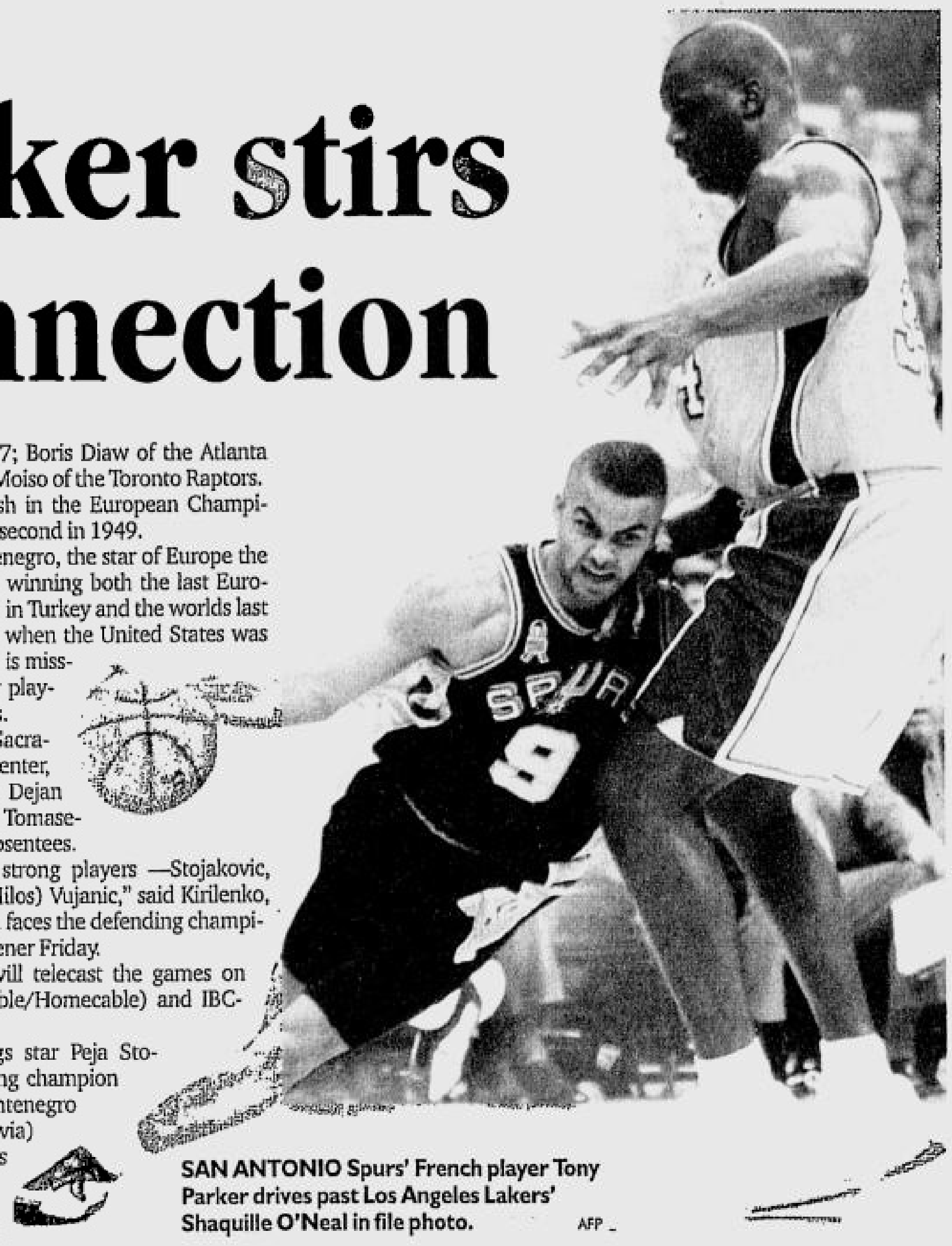
Serbia and Montenegro, the star of Europe the past two years after winning both the last European championships in Turkey and the worlds last year in Indianapolis when the United States was without its top stars, is missing some of the key players from those teams.

Vlade Divac, Sacramento's veteran center, and Spanish-based Dejan Bodiroga and Dejan Tomasevic are the biggest absentees.

"They still have strong players —Stojakovic, (Milan) Gurovic, (Milos) Vujanic," said Kirilenko, whose Russian team faces the defending champions in a Group C opener Friday.

- Solar Sports will telecast the games on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable) and IBC-13.

Sacramento Kings star Peja Stojakovic leads reigning champion Serbia and Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia) against Utah Jazz's Andrei Kirilenko and Russia at 8 p.m. on Channel 29. *AP*



SAN ANTONIO Spurs' French player Tony Parker drives past Los Angeles Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal in file photo. AFP

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 052

Kobe probe

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True /☐ False: Kobe Bryant was named after a type of steak.

2 > 5 Pts.

Kobe holds the all-time record as the youngest NBA player to appear in a/an:

☐ regular game
☐ All-Star Game

3 > 7 Pts.

Kobe first played for which NBA team in 1996?

☐ Charlotte Hornets
☐ Atlanta Hawks
☐ Philadelphia 76ers

4 > 10 Pts.

Kobe attended Philadelphia's Lower Merion High School, the same alma mater of which NBA superstar?

☐ Julius Erving
☐ Allen Iverson
☐ Wilt Chamberlain

5 > 20 Pts.

What's the court nickname of Kobe's dad, Joe Bryant, who was a one-time NBA journeyman forward?

☐ Jumpin' Joe
☐ JB
☐ Jellybean
☐ Joe Steak

6 > 25 Pts.

What is Kobe's career high single-game score?

☐ 50
☐ 53
☐ 56
☐ 63

7 > 30 Pts.

Call him JR: Kobe used an alias (as some celebs are wont to do) when he checked in at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, the Colorado resort where he allegedly raped a 19-year-old female employee. What alias was this?

ANSWERS/ A28

Tampus defense topbills 'Battle in Ormoc' tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

ORMOC CITY—Pan Asia Boxing Association (PABA) junior flyweight champion Marvin "Leyte Bomber" Tampus defends his title for the second time against Thailand's Kaichon Sor Vorapin in the top bout of tonight's "Battle in Ormoc" card in this city's 6,000-capacity Superdome.

The power-punching 18-year-old Tampus, 13-1, with 10 KOs, needs a big win in the 12-round clash to earn a dream match with WBA titlist Rosendo Alvarez next year.

Three other world-ranked fighters from Cebu are also seeing action in the event backed by Cebu Ferries, Supercat, James and Jo Williams, and Ormoc City Mayor Carmelo Locsin.

Worthy, Parish in Hall of Fame

ROBERT Parish and James Worthy will be among seven people who will be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts today.

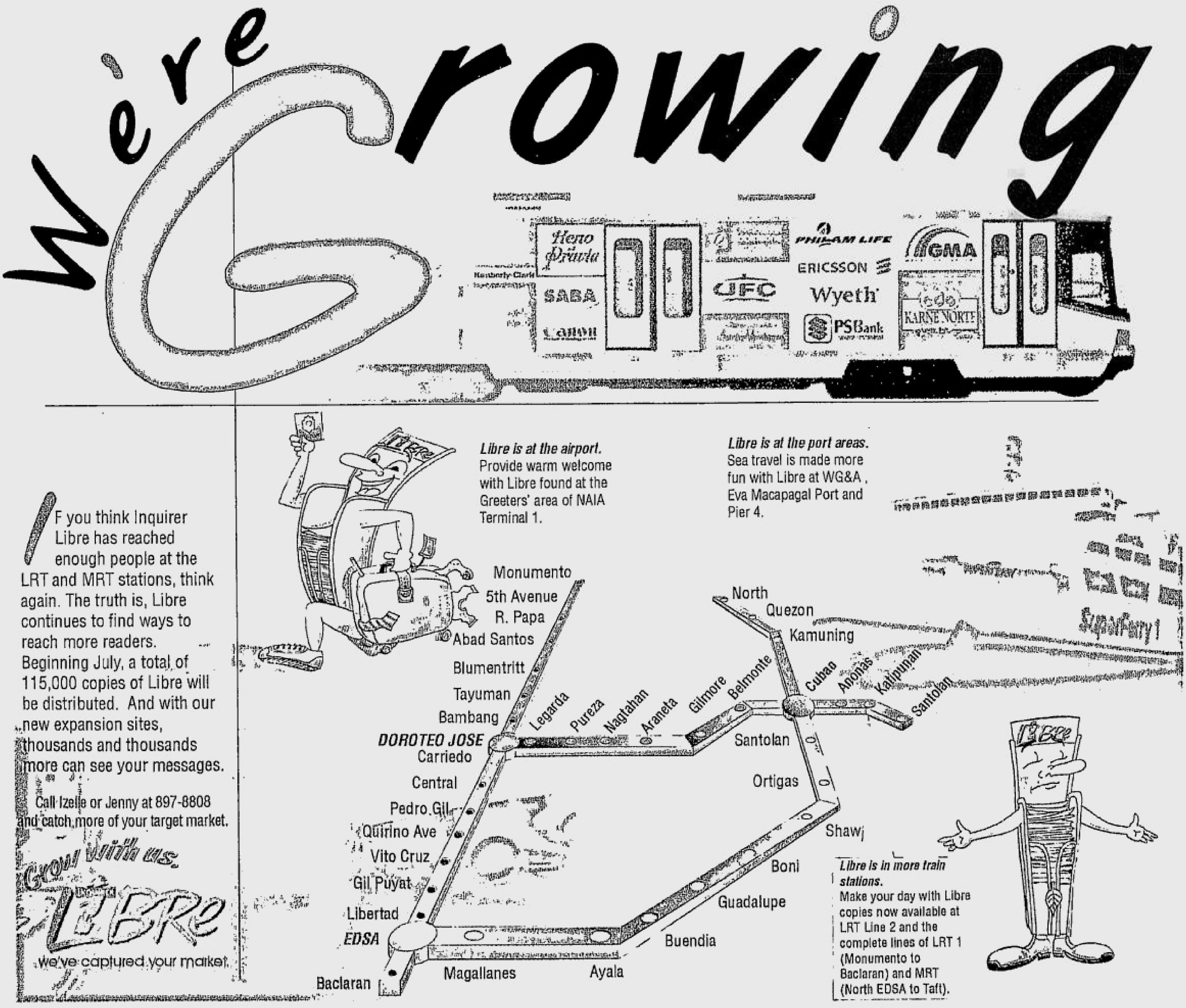
Both players were part of the fiercest NBA rivalry in the 1980s—Worthy as the flashy forward of the Los Angeles Lakers who originated "Showtime" and Parish as the dominant center of the Boston Celtics, where he formed one of the most fearsome frontlines of all time with Larry Bird and Kevin McHale.

The other inductees are Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters, NBA pioneer Earl Lloyd, longtime women's college coach Leon Barmore, Italian player Dino Meneghin and the late Lakers broadcaster Chick Hearn.

Worthy joined the Lakers in 1982, two years after Parish went to the Celtics. They met in the NBA Finals three times, with Boston winning in 1984 and Los Angeles winning in 1985 and 1987.

Each team had two other players, in addition to Parish and Worthy, among the top 50 in NBA history and who went to the Hall of Fame—Bird and McHale with the Celtics and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson with the Lakers.

- The proceedings will be telecast "live" on Solar Sports at 7:30 a.m., with a replay at 10 p.m., along with highlights of their respective careers.



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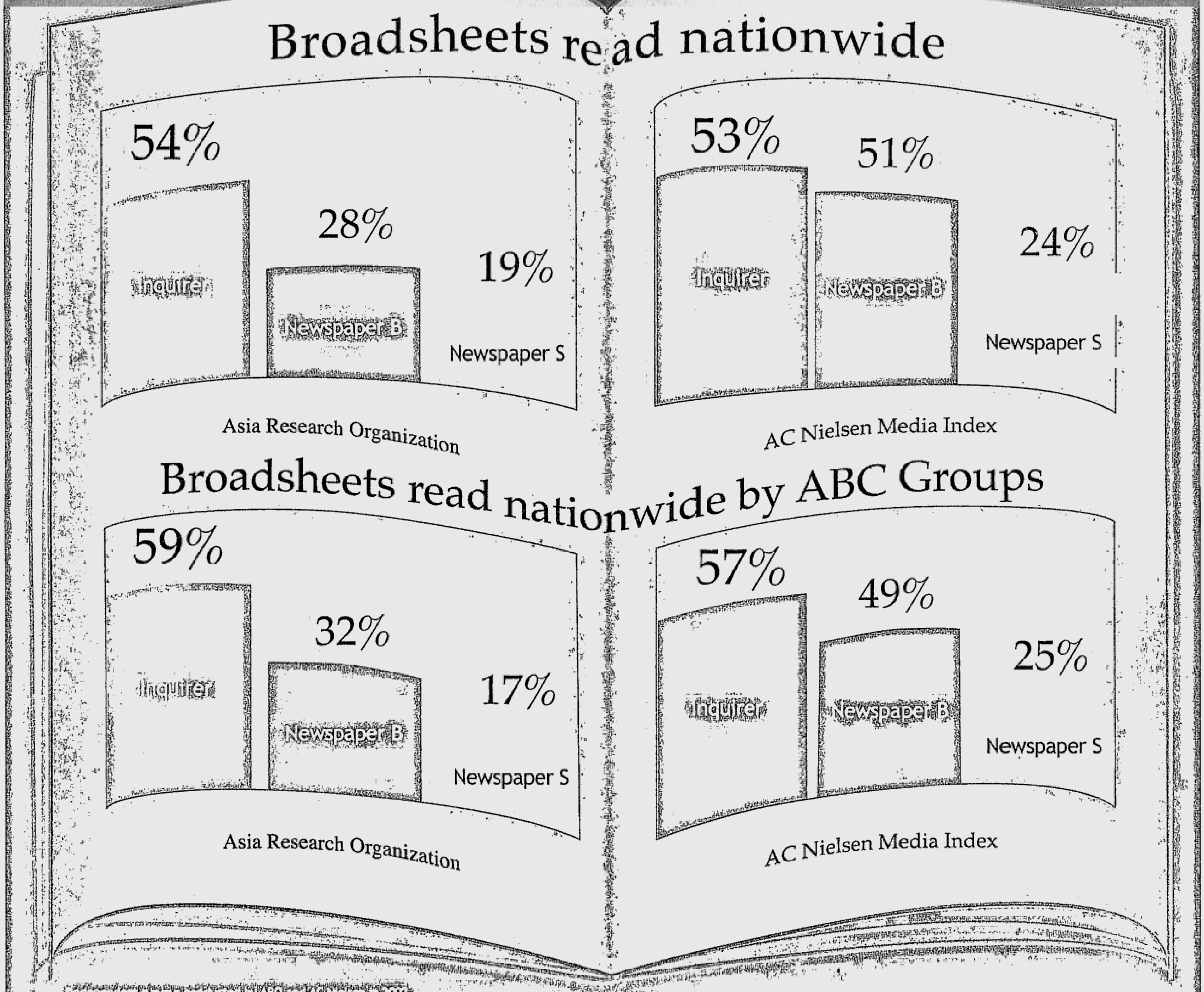

*Independent surveys conducted by ARO and AC Nielsen in 2007

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SPORTS

GMA lauds Asian track organizers

THE 15TH Asian Athletics Association championships is not all about competition. It is also about sportsmanship, camaraderie and goodwill.

President Macapagal Arroyo stressed this yesterday as she lauded the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association for spearheading the hosting of the event slated Sept. 20-23 at the refurbished Rizal track and field stadium.

"I wish this event will strengthen and promote the cultural and socioeconomic ties among participating countries," Ms Arroyo declared in her message to event organizers led by Patafa president Go Teng Kok.

Ms Arroyo added that the competition is a dynamic vehicle for the formation of desirable values and the promotion of peace and unity among the youths of Asia.

"It (Asian championship) showcases not only the physical endurance and skills of Asian athletes but also their character as a people," the President said.

On Aug. 11, the President also issued Proclamation No. 432 declaring 2003 as the "Asian Track and Field Championship Year."

She also directed the Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the PSC, "to act as the lead agency in planning, disseminating information and conducting the sporting event."

The competition is the biggest and most important sports spectacle in Asia this year with more than 1,500 elite stars competing.

Go said 41 of 45 member nations are coming. Yemen is the latest confirmed entry while North Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq and Cambodia will not compete because of internal conflicts.

Supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Department of Tourism, Milo, Adidas, Colgate Palmolive, Cafe Adriatico and the City of Manila, the tournament is the third Asian championships to be hosted by the Patafa.

The inaugurals of the then Asian Amateur Athletics Association (4As) were held in Marikina in 1974 under its first president Gov. Joe Sering, Patafa president from 1969 to 1981 and 1984 to 1991.

Go staged the 1993 edition where 42 nations vied for honors. This season, Go bested his Japanese counterpart in winning the hosting bid last year in Sri Lanka.

MARESTELLA Torres will be the Philippines' main bet in triple jump of the coming Asian trackfest.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Calabarzon chess tomorrow

THE CALABARZON Chess Circuit, a competition among partner high schools of the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanity (Faith) in the Calabarzon region including Mindoro, will be launched tomorrow prior to the simultaneous exhibitions to be staged by the country's three grandmasters at the covered court of Faith in Tanauan City, Batangas.

The exhibition, billed as "Calabarzon Chess Challenge," will feature GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor against 60 challengers. The three GMs will take time off from their preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in December.

Torre became Asia's first grandmaster in 1974 and a candidate for the world title in 1983. Antonio earned his GM title in 1993 and qualified for the world championship in 1999 while Villamayor was awarded the GM title in 2000 after completing three GM norms in a record 40 days and qualified for the world championship that same year.

For details, contact Faith at (043) 405-2326; (043) 7781243 or the Acca at 892-8759, 8920279.

Sanchez shares lead in Madrid

FILIPINO International Master Joseph Sanchez beat Spaniard Jesus Vallejo Diaz Thursday night to share the lead with six others after in the fourth round of the VI Open International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess championship at the Sports Complex in Madrid, Spain.

Sanchez, a Cebuano, improved to 4 points and was tied with third seed Grandmaster Salvador Del Rio Angelis of Spain, fifth seed IM Renier Vasquez of Cuba, 13th seed IM Sasha Belezky of Ukraine, 16th seed Fide Master Santiago Roa Alonso of Spain, 21st seed IM Ricardo Leyva of Cuba and 24th seed Tihomir Dovramadjiev of Bulgaria.

Grandmaster-candidate Mark Paragua, on the other hand, suffered his first loss at the hands of Leyva and dropped to a share of 19th to 51st place at 3 points. Also with the same total is Nice Open champion Grandmaster Davor Komljenovic of Croatia.

Other matches saw Angelis subdue compatriot Jose San Emeterio Cabanes, IM Vasquez outplay Spaniard Gabriel Rojo Huerta, Belezky topple another Spaniard Alfonso Maldonado Morillo, Alonso trounce Matina Madina Yadarola of Argentina and Dovramdjiev down Slobodan Kovacevic of Yugoslavia.

Sanchez, stalwart of the Philippine Navy chess team, will be playing white against Alonso in Round 5. Paragua, on the other hand, will be handling black against Spanish Miguel Angel Prada Lopez. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS **From page A26**

1. True—after Kobe steak, his dad's favorite
2. All-Star Game
3. Charlotte Hornets (who traded him to the LA Lakers for Vlade Divac in 1997)
4. Wilt Chamberlain
5. Jellybean
6. 56 (against the Memphis Grizzlies in 2002)
7. Javier Rodriguez

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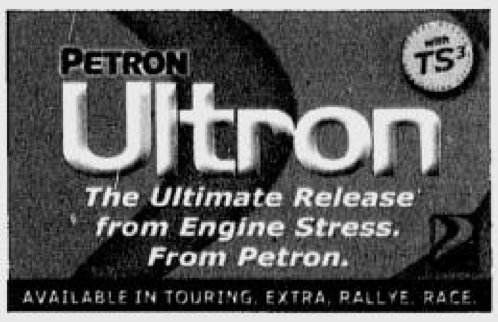
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**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August inflation eases sharply to 3%

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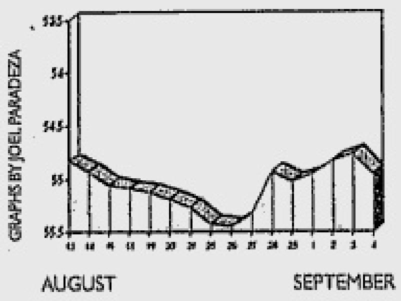

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 5, 2003

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 5, 2003

GOLD: $370.75-371.25

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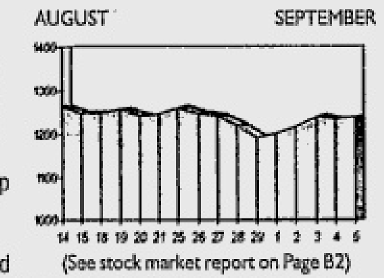
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up on positive inflation data



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended modestly higher yesterday, aided by better-than-expected August inflation data, traders said.

But they added that more coup d'etat talk and some further weakness in the peso currency had capped the upside and would keep investors cautious early next week although some light buying was likely.

The main index closed up 6.71 points or 0.54 percent, at 1,240.58 points. For the week the index rose 4 percent and in the year-to-date it is up 21.8 percent.

The country's biggest phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Ayala group stocks attracted technical buying support, helping to lift the broad market. Turnover was thin at P349.7 million from P402.2 million on Thursday.

Consumer prices in the year to August rose 3 percent coming in at the lower end of market expectations and beating the government's forecast.

"The momentum has been positive this week and people are in a buying mood. The inflation data I guess increases the expectation that the central bank can keep interest rates low," said Spencer Yap, an investment analyst at BPI Securities.

Reuters

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFLATION eased sharply to 3 percent in August, giving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas more leeway to keep interest rates steady.

The August figure was down from a revised 3.4 percent in July. The government had previously said the July rate was 3.3 percent.

This brought the country's average inflation for the eight-month period to 3 percent, or still within the government's full-year ceiling of 4.5-5.5 percent.

Inflation in the National Capital Region was at 4 percent while the inflation rate in the provinces dropped to 2.6 percent from 3.1 percent.

The lower rate in August was mainly due to slower price increases for food, beverages and tobacco, as well as easing inflation in the fuel, light and water indices, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said yesterday.

"That means inflation remains favorable and therefore we will probably be able to maintain the current stance of monetary policy," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said in reaction to the NSO report.

A slump in the peso last week to near its record low of 55.75 to the dollar had prompted talk the central bank might hike policy rates to try to stave off speculation in the currency.

Economists warned that inflation could push higher again in coming months, partly due to the effect of the weaker peso, which makes imported goods more expensive.

"Three percent is major surprise but it doesn't change our view that inflation will be moving higher toward the end of the year. But definitely it will stay within the government target," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

He said the full-year rise would be due to the low base of 3.1 percent in 2002. The government has set an average inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent in 2003.

"If the peso further weakens, then that would start putting pressure on commodity prices and prompt the central bank to make a more aggressive move," Vistan said.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri had projected an annual inflation rate of 3.2-3.3 percent in August, while Tetangco had forecast 2.8 to 3.1 percent.

Neri said the inflation rate would likely remain broadly stable and hit the lower end of the 3-3.5 percent range or much better than the official target.

"Barring unexpected shocks, inflation pressure is expected to ebb toward the end of the year," he said.

For September, however, Neri said inflation could stabilize at 3 percent at best, or inch up to 3.2 percent at worst on pressure from rising oil prices.

Crude oil prices shot up to $27.66 a barrel in August from $26.72 in July, the impact of which would be fully felt by the local market in September, he pointed out.

Fresh coup rumors push peso back past 55 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

PERSISTENT coup rumors spooked the financial market and sent the peso back to the 55:$1 level, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas vowed to stay vigilant against banks that may be speculating against the local currency.

Opening weak at 55.09 to a dollar, the peso slipped to 55.13 during the morning trade but managed to close at 55.02 or seven centavos lower than Thursday's close of 54.95 to $1.

"Unfortunately, the peso's recovery was halted by a new round of coup jitters. We would continue to monitor the foreign exchange sales and purchases of banks to ensure that there is no speculation," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The peso recovered last week after a stern warning from Malacañang against currency speculators.

The decision of the policy-making Monetary Board last week to scrap the tiering scheme on deposits with the BSP also discouraged banks from using the money to buy dollars.

It appears, however, that monetary policy nor strong pronouncements against speculation could not do much to reverse the poor investor sentiment, according to a trader from a foreign bank.

The central bank chief said the BSP had nothing to do with the $180.9-million turnover yesterday at the Philippine Dealing System although the volume was higher compared to the previous days when the peso was gaining strength at the 54:$1 level from Monday to Wednesday.

"The peso was already at 54.60 last Thursday but when foreign financial markets opened and they saw the news that the government was bracing for another possible coup attempt, foreign investors were spooked again," the BSP chief said.

The peso fell even as the BSP announced that the country's gross international reserves improved to $16.17 billion as of end-August from $16.11 billion a month ago.

A strong GIR indicates that the central bank had enough reserves to ward off currency speculation.

"Coup rumors do not help the peso, whether or not the government announces it," Buenaventura pointed out.

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Acts to grind

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ASIDE from Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, from what I gathered, somebody else has an ax to grind against the First Gentleman, Jose Pi..., este, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Sure, Udong is the, ahh, well, "former" star witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the ongoing Senate investigation of the various Jose Pidal bank accounts.

But Udong only served as the messenger of Arroyo, who is more popularly known as "Attorney Mike" to the *sipsip* crowd.

Talk is that an actual business associate of Attorney Mike had something to do with the so-called "documents" and photos which got into the hand of Ping Lacson.

Supposedly, that associate had a feud with another associate of Attorney Mike, who then favored one over the other.

And so the story goes that the "other" started to grind his acts together against Attorney Mike by wanting to do a Chavit.

* * *

IF all that talk gives you a sense of déjà vu, maybe it's because we heard the same story before during the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

A similar row cropped up between former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Atong Ang, who at that time managed the jai alai operations of Pagcor.

It was something over the *jueteng* syndicate, supposedly, and Atong Ang had wanted to consolidate it under Pagcor. Thus was born the *juetenggate*.

Supposedly, the Atong Ang plan would hurt the, er, "business" of Chavit in his own province. Wrist Band favored Atong Ang over him. The rest is recent history.

This time, as the story goes, the row between Attorney Mike's associates supposedly did not involve *jueteng*, but some deals in the gaming business.

There is just one hitch. And that is, the ratting associate did not have the guts to go through the ordeal in the Senate which Udong had to go through, thank you.

* * *

NOW reports pointed at one of the two handlers of Udong as a certain Alex Carlos, a businessman, who specialized in deals with the National Food Authority, or the NFA.

Just how Alex Carlos is related to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, whose wife is a Carlos, the daughter of business leader Meneleo Carlos, is yet unknown.

Alex Carlos is the owner of a company called Lucky Smile Trucking, according to my spy, but his name does not appear in any document.

But everybody in the NFA knows that Alex Carlos is the man behind Lucky Smile, as its major stockholder, if not the only one.

He is only said to be the owner because he is the one who follows up the company's claim with the NFA for some P50 million over Gloria Labandera.

* * *

THAT'S the politically motivated gimmick of this cute administration of Gloriaetta, through which NFA subsidizes the rice it sells through Gloria Labandera trucks.

The official line from Malacañang is that the rice subsidy helps the poor. Sure, but it also helps the rich. Besides, the trucks do not reach all the poor.

Thus the subsidy looks good for PR, which in politics always has something to do with elections, or in the case of Gloriaetta, with 2004.

Anyway, Alex Carlos got the NFA contract for Lucky Smile during the time of Wrist Band. The contract was a jackpot!

NFA would pay Carlos some P3,500 per truck for 22 days a month, whether or not the NFA would use them. The deal involved some 50 trucks. In short, jackpot!

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY for Lucky Smile, and presumably Alex Carlos, the NFA refuses to pay the P50-million claim.

The Commission on Audit, or the COA, says that the contract is onerous. The NFA board fears it will only invite cases before the Ombudsman if they pay the claim.

Maybe that's one of the reasons why Carlos is raising hell at the NFA, also why he acts to grind somebody close to this cute administration.

You see, word going around is, the same guy had another company called North Front Shipping, which used to corner the barging business at the NFA.

Apparently, when this cute administration sent Wrist Band home, the guy lost the lucrative barge contracts.

* * *

YESTERDAY the board of the so-called Four Aces, or the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines, met on the GMA Channel 7 problem.

GMA, the television network, is bolting out of the KBP, the Kapisan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, the self-regulating body in the broadcast business.

That's a problem to the advertisers and their agencies. Once GMA is out of the KBP, it can do whatever it pleases. Advertisers do not like it that way.

You see, outside the KBP, the second largest network no longer has to follow the standards and ethics and what-have-you which the KBP imposes on its members.

To think, the reason for GMA's bolt-out, from what I heard, has nothing to do with the poor uninformed leadership in the KBP. It's all about money.

* * *

IT'S actually about the so-called overloading. Under the KBP rules, a network like GMA may put out only 18 minutes of ads per hour.

GMA wants to overload its ad slots, according to reports, arguing that, in the past, the KBP was never strict in implementing the overload rule.

Felipe Gozon, GMA chair and president, in fact, bewails that the KBP is getting strict on GMA, only now that the network's ratings is at their highest ever.

The high ratings can only mean, at least in the television business, more companies want to put out ads on GMA programs.

Why KBP applies such an erratic implementation of the rule, is rather suspicious to the GMA guys. Ergo, they want out!

* * *

ON the side of the KBP, nevertheless, it is getting strict in implementing its rules, because the government is already threatening to regulate the industry.

Last May, for instance, the House of Representatives already held hearings on bills seeking to do precisely that—you know, to choke the broadcast sector.

One of the measures is for the MTRCB, the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board, to censor the advertisements shown on television.

And so if GMA bolts out of KBP, without anything or anybody to stand in its way to overloading, the government now has a reason to step into the picture. In a big way, mind you!

That's what the advertising industry fears. That's why the Four Aces met. The acts of GMA is threatening their industry. It's not flattering to GMA, surely.

* * *

IN other words, to GMA, success has become a problem. With high ratings, it wants to earn more. It can earn more by overloading.

To me it is a pricing problem, and not a load problem. GMA executives themselves told me that they did not want to raise prices even with its high ratings.

The strategy is supposed to bring in more ad placements. Truly, GMA already ate into the ad pie which previously was monopolized by ABS-CBN.

Unfortunately, GMA was able to raise prices only recently. Yet it has an ad revenue target to try to catch, now that it is doing well in the ratings.

And if the government steps in, imposing regulations left and right, it is the worst that can happen to the broadcast industry.

Just take a look at what happened to Channels 4, 9 and 13. They have become mouthpieces for the administration. Not the government! Just the administration.

Forex reserves remain at $16B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves remained at $16.171 billion as of end-August due to minimal debt repayment and higher gold valuation, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The external reserves included the more than $2 billion in funds used as collateral for short-term loans.

The GIR is expected to improve in the coming weeks in view of the $500-million loan being worked out by the BSP.

Under a strict computation rule, the funds used as collateral for loans are deducted from the GIR, such that in June, according to the International Monetary Fund, the dollar reserves stood at only $13.7 billion.

"The higher gold prices in the world market allowed us to revalue our gold holdings," said the BSP governor.

Gold accounts for about 20 percent or about $3 billion of the GIR.

The true level of the external reserves is important to the psychology of the financial markets. A declining GIR can add pressure on the peso as it indicates the weakness of the central bank to defend the local currency against speculation.

Consisting mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank that also includes gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the IMF.

The current level of reserves is sufficient to pay for more than four months worth of imports of goods and services. It is also equivalent to 2.6 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity or 1.3 times based on residual maturity.

The dollar reserves reached an all-time high of $17.36 billion in March 2002 mainly because of the proceeds of a $1-billion long-term borrowing of the national government.

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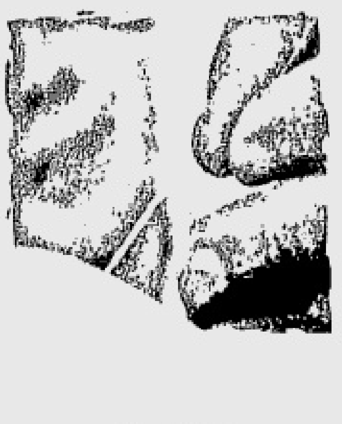

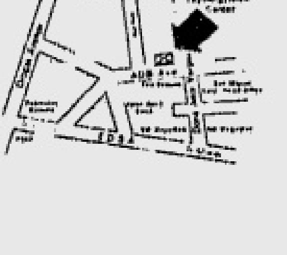

BSP execs appeal CA order

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has asked the Court of Appeals to reconsider its Aug. 13 decision suspending him and four other senior BSP officials for a year in relation to the closure of Urban Bank and its affiliates in April 2000.

The appellate court suspended the central bank officials for "abruptly" closing Urban Development Bank and revoking the trust license of Urbancorp Investment Corp.

Although the BSP chief continued to perform his functions, the suspension of Buenaventura and the other BSP officials were considered by the financial market as one of the biggest factors that pulled down the peso to its recent low of 55.60 to $1.

The BSP governor told the court, in a petition filed Thursday afternoon, that it was the management and the directors of Urban Bank and its financial subsidiaries who voluntarily declared a bank holiday on April 25.

BSP legal counsel Juan de Zuniga said that the declaration of a bank holiday was an admission by a bank that it could no longer pay its obligations as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Section 30 of the BSP charter authorizes the Monetary Board, under these circumstances, to put the bank under the receivership of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Buenaventura said the court could not liken the case of Urban Bank with that of Banco Filipino because the latter was closed for insolvency while Urban Bank admitted to being unable to service its depositors and clients.

Prompt action, he noted, was crucial to protect the depositors and prevent any dissipation of the bank's liquidity and assets.

Clarissa S. Batino

INTEREST RATES

September 05, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 5-Sep-03	MART1 4-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2732	6.3161
3 Months	6.2821	6.3696
6 Months	6.8036	6.8073
1 Year	8.3946	8.3733
2 Years	9.7464	9.7867
3 Years	10.3308	10.3961
4 Years	10.7196	10.7483
5 Years	11.1107	11.1267
7 Years	11.5214	11.5288
10 Years	11.8964	11.8983
20 Years	12.2875	12.3083
25 Years	12.4589	12.4981

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 5, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	41,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	850,900
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	340
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	33	33	63,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28.5	77,600
Philippine National Bank	24	24	23.5	23.5	129,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	12.75	15,100
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	33,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	27	26.5	27	13,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	35,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	320
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1205	1220	1205	1210	4,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	10,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.62	1,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	660	650	655	123,300
Ipeople Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	11,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,630,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	595	580	595	182,300
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	20,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13	12.75	13	284,100
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	356,300
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	671,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	135,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	9,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	187,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	337,100
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	21,300
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	34,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,547,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	490,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	268,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	17,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.56	16,840,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.145	1,540,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	2,700,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	208,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.105	0.105	2,310,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.3	220,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	733,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	250,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.25	2,410,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	553,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.1	0.0925	0.1	6,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	28,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	1,027,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	60,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,050,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,540,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	5,920,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	32,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	8,504,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	6,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,307,160	52,428,845.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	97,215,400	240,147,080.00
PRO	18,453,000	56,861,550.00
Mining	8,500,000	164,200.00
OIL	5,010,000	38,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	130,485,560	349,639,975.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	427.23	UP 2.07
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,811.47	UP 9.11
PRO	541.03	UP 2.76
Mining	1,239.80	UP 3.66
OIL	1.40	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	796.82	UP 3.16
Composite	1,240.58	UP 6.71

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25, NO. OF DECLINES: 25, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84, NO. OF TRADES: 1,284

DISCLOSURES

SUN Life Financial Inc. announced the change in Ronald Friesen's title from vice president for tax and corporate capital to VP for corporate capital. Peter van Dijk was appointed VP for tax.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 70,000 of its own shares at P1.28 per share and another 70,000 at P1.30 per share.

* * *

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 27, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 5 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. clarified that it was still having discussions with AT&T Corp. and has yet to reach a definite agreement.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.** were Ramon Felipe Jr., chair; Rinfredo dela Cruz, president; Raul Alvarez, vice president for operations; Victor Kalaw, treasurer; Mariano Sarmiento II, corporate secretary; Gerardo Herrera, assistant corporate secretary and compliance officer; Rogelio Flores, HRD director; Jose Artemio Banaria, VP-audit; Rowena Gorgonio, chief accountant and Edith Casidsid, internal auditor.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

September 5, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.913325	1.000000	54.764000
Japan	Yen	0.007826	0.008569	0.469300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444789	1.581900	86.631200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.117112	0.128226	7.022200
Switzerland	Franc	0.650563	0.712301	39.008500
Canada	Dollar	0.666418	0.729661	39.959200
Singapore	Dollar	0.519998	0.569346	31.179700
Australia	Dollar	0.584080	0.639509	35.022100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.422678	2.652590	145.266400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.243547	0.266660	14.603400
Brunei	Dollar	0.518522	0.567730	31.091200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022386	0.024510	1.342300
UAE	Dirham	0.248687	0.272287	14.911500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.094900	59.961100
Argentina	Peso	0.308556	0.337838	18.501400
Brazil	Real	0.310655	0.340136	18.627200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134613	0.147388	8.071600
India	Rupee	0.019898	0.021786	1.193100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.240381	0.263193	14.413500
Mexico	New Peso	0.084146	0.092132	5.045500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518758	0.567988	31.105300
Norway	Kroner	0.121511	0.133042	7.285900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015856	0.017361	0.950800
South Africa	Rand	0.125976	0.137931	7.553700
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.000852	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.109595	0.119996	6.571500
Syria	Pound	0.021746	0.023810	1.303900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026846	0.029394	1.609700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000573	0.000627	0.034300

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PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

2.7HA 180/SM MABLCT PAMP CALL 4160973 / 09205856342

VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m P2.284/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3 125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc 27

BATANGAS

13,840m² Batangas 8215221 1606m² Batangas 8215221

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BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN&COUNTRY LA180m² P3200/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128M² P2 900/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST CHARBEL EXEC VILLAGE LA 371M² P2.650/m Vic 8903461 loc 72 or 25

LAGUNA

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QUEZON CITY

2BR DTIrona Proj4 421-6693

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OFCMKTG STF 09193352395 KC

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ROBERTO MONSOD who died on Aug. 21, 1987 and JOSEFA MONSOD who died Jan. 5. 1987 in Makati City has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs on Sept 4, 2003 under Doc. 393, Page 80, Book 55, Series of 2003 by Atty. Pio Kenneth T. Dasal.
(PDI-Sept 6, 13 & 20, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 - 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Website: www.poea.gov.ph

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 05
Series of 2003

WHEREAS, Section 5, Rule II, Part II of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers provides that applicants for new license shall be issued a provisional license which shall be valid for a limited period of one (1) year within which the applicant should be able to comply with its undertaking to deploy 100 workers to its new principal. The license of a complying agency shall be upgraded to a full license entitling them to another three years of operation. Non-complying agencies will be notified of the expiration of their license.

WHEREAS, the global effects of the recent Iraq conflict and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic which have resulted in the temporary ban on entry of overseas Filipino workers in some host countries as well as the slow processing of work/entry permits by the host country have been raised by agencies with newly issued licenses as the reason for their failure to comply with the required deployment of at least 100 workers within the period covered by the provisional license.

WHEREAS, several newly licensed agencies have requested the POEA for extension of their provisional license because they failed to meet the required deployment level in view of the aforementioned crises and delay in processing of documents by host countries.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to preserve new employment opportunities that may be jeopardized in the event the provisional licensee is disqualified from continuing its operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, hereby resolves to extend the provisional license for a period of six months without further extension, in the following instances:

1. A ban on deployment has been declared in the affected new market in view of epidemic (health concerns), outbreak of war or impending hostilities, or imminent threat to the host country's national security or similarly related situations which is of public notice or verified by the Philippine government and the agency has presented proof that it has 100 qualified workers with processed documents but who were not deployed due to the ban or whose documents are ready for processing/submitted for processing but could not be processed due to the ban on deployment.
2. There is a problem in the processing of work permit/entry permit in the host country which is attributable to the host country and such delay has been confirmed by the POLO/Embassy and the agency concerned has presented proof showing that it had submitted to the concerned host country authorities complete requirements for issuance of work permit/entry permit for a number of workers corresponding to the balance of the deployment quota.

The extension of provisional license may also apply to agencies whose licenses have earlier been re-issued insofar as determining their compliance with the 100 deployment quota; *provided* that the above mentioned causes/circumstances are present.

It is further resolved that other requests for extension of provisional license citing extraordinary circumstances leading to loss of employment and subject to verification and submission of undertaking to comply with the market requirement shall be decided by the Administrator.

Done in Mandaluyong City, this 28th day of August, 2003.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary of Labor and Employment and
Chairperson of the Governing Board

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Member

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO S. OCA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ALEXIS P. CRUEL**
Member

(Sgd.) **VICENTE F. ALDANESE**
Member

LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS
Member

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 07
Series of 2003

WHEREAS, under Article 18 of the Labor Code, as amended, no employer may hire a Filipino worker for overseas employment except through the POEA and entities authorized by the Secretary of Labor;

WHEREAS, under Section 3(f) of Executive Order No. 247, series 1987, the Administration is empowered to recruit and place workers to service the requirement for trained and competent Filipino workers by foreign governments and their instrumentalities and such other employers as public interest may require;

WHEREAS, under Section 1, Rule 1, Part IV of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers, the Administration is empowered to recruit and place workers primarily on government-to-government arrangements in servicing the hiring of foreign instrumentalities, and also to recruit and place workers for foreign employers in such sectors as the policy may dictate;

WHEREAS, all employers, whether foreign government instrumentalities or private, hiring through the POEA, undertake the recruitment and placement of workers through the facilities of the Government Placement Branch, the in-house recruitment arm of the POEA.

WHEREAS, Section 3, Rule 1 Part IV of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers also provides for the establishment of the Foreign Employer's Guarantee Trust Fund (FEGTF) for all workers hired on a government-to-government arrangement for the purpose of covering monetary claims of the workers arising from breach of contractual obligation. Said Fund, however, does not include within its coverage workers hired by private foreign employers through the POEA-GPB.

WHEREAS, there is a vital need to provide a similar Foreign Employer's Guarantee Trust Fund for workers hired by private foreign employers through the POEA-GBP for the purpose of covering the monetary claims of the workers arising from breach of contractual obligations.

NOW THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, resolved, as it hereby resolves to authorize:

a) The establishment of Foreign Employer's Guarantee Trust Fund (FEGTF) for workers hired by private foreign employers through the POEA-GBP for the purpose of covering the monetary claims of the workers arising from breach of contractual obligations;
b) The Administrator to formulate the joint implementing guidelines for the establishment of Foreign Employer's Guarantee Trust Fund for workers hired thru government-to-government arrangement and those hired by the private foreign employers both through the facilities of the POEA-GBP, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, the Commission on Audit and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration;
c) The Administrator to collect from foreign employers a minimum of USD 50.00 for each worker hired thru the facilities of the POEA-GBP and which shall constitute the Fund.

Said Fund shall be deposited in Trust in the National Treasury as Special Trust Account and shall be managed and disbursed by the POEA in accordance with accounting and auditing rules and regulations, subject to the joint circular to be issued by the Department of Labor and Employment together with the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and Commission on Audit for the purpose pursuant to Section 45, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987.

Done in Mandaluyong City, this 28th day of August 2003.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary of Labor and Employment and
Chairman of the Board

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Member

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO S. OCA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ALEXIS P. CRUEL**
Member

(Sgd.) **VICENTE F. ALDANESE**
Member

LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS
Member

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 08
Series of 2003

WHEREAS, under Section 3(f) of Executive Order No. 247, series of 1987, the Administration is empowered to recruit and place workers to service the requirement for trained and competent Filipino workers by foreign governments and their instrumentalities and such other employers as public interest may require;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1, Rule 1, Part IV of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers, the Administration, apart from primarily servicing the hiring of foreign instrumentalities on a government-to-government arrangements, shall also recruit and place workers for foreign employers in such sectors as the policy may dictate;

WHEREAS, in line with such policy, the Administration, is mandated to administer programs and projects in support of its employment development objectives and set parameters in servicing other foreign clients;

WHEREAS, the Government Placement Branch (GPB) is in the in-house recruitment facility of the Administration that services the manpower needs of foreign instrumentalities and private foreign employers hiring through the Administration;

WHEREAS, the POEA-GPB exists as an alternative option for private foreign employers to meet their demands for quality Filipino manpower under specific considerations only, namely, pioneering into new labor markets and/or novel or alternative manpower mobilization arrangements on a pilot or experimental basis, Special hiring Projects triggered by certain malpractices of some participants in the industry or those which are favorably endorsed for GPB servicing by Philippine diplomatic missions abroad, resumption of hiring of old/inactive clients of the defunct Overseas Employment Development Board who insist on doing business with a government agency instead of a private agency;

WHEREAS, the POEA-GPB also serves in maintaining goodwill with foreign government clients, as a special facility to contribute to the government's emergency employment program, and as instrument for the exercise of the regulatory authority of the Administration by taking over a market segment plagued with recruitment malpractices and exploitation of migrant workers;

WHEREAS, cognizant of the role of the POEA-GPB, there is a compelling need to define and rationalize the policy and parameters in servicing other clients hiring through the Administration to make it more responsive to the demands of the changing labor market trends, emerging circumstances that affect the welfare of migrant workers, and the clamor of the private sector industry that POEA-GPB is in direct competition with private recruitment agencies

NOW THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, resolved, as it hereby resolves, that the POEA-GPB shall recruit and place workers for foreign employers under the following parameters or criteria:

1. As may be requested and specified by the foreign government employer;
2. As a ready "goodwill vehicle" for prospective employers endorsed by diplomatic missions or a result of high level ministerial meetings;
3. For new or novel markets or alternative manpower mobilization arrangements on a pilot or experimental basis or for special hiring projects triggered by certain recruitment and exploitative malpractices of recruitment agencies; and
4. As a special facility for government's emergency employment program and pro-poor regional dispersal of services.

The Administration with the approval of the Secretary of Labor and Empoyment shall enter into a Recruitment Agreement with foreign employers which conform with the parameters of criteria set forth herein, without prejudice to its overall employment facilitation and government revenue generation functions.

The special hiring facility provided under the third category will be on a temporary basis and will untimately be serviced by the private recruitment industry in accordance with the exigencies of the market.

The POEA Administrator shall promulgate the necessary implementing guidelines that will govern this resolution

Done in Mandaluyong City, this 28th day of August 2003.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary of Labor and Employment and
Chairperson of the Governing Board

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Member

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO S. OCA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ALEXIS P. CRUEL**
Member

(Sgd.) **VICENTE F. ALDANESE**
Member

LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS
Member

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase/Lease* on an *"As-Is-Where-Is"* basis, the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
I.	PUBLIC BIDDING - FIRST TENDER		
001	23,628 sq.m. commercial/industrial	Within Pier 18 Area, Vitas, Tondo, Manila	PhP12,850/sqm. or PhP303.59 Million (sale)
II.	PUBLIC BIDDING - SECOND TENDER		
001	6,375.30 sq.m. commercial property with TCT	East Triangle, EDSA Quezon City	PhP40,500/sq.m. or PhP258.21 Million
002	863.57 sq.m. commercial property with TCT	Felix Avenue, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP13,750/sq.m. or PhP11.87 Million
003	303 sq.m. commercial lot, with TCT	Cancabato, Tacloban	PhP1,600/sq.m.
III.	NEGOTIATED SALE		
A.	METRO MANILA		
001	14,685 sq.m. commercial property with TCT	Vitas, Tondo	PhP15,000/sq.m. or PhP220.27 Million
002	5,105 sq.m. commercial property with TCT	Lapu-lapu Avenue corners Ayungin & Babanse Sts., Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP12,000/sq.m. PhP61.26 Million
003-010	8 commercial lots, 132 sq.m. to 300.77 sq.m. with TCTs	Phase I, Block 157 Karangalan Village Project Pasig City	PhP15,000 to PhP15,500/sq.m. (sale) PhP80 to PhP83/sq.m./mo. (lease)
B.	NORTHERN/CENTRAL LUZON		
001	10,995 sq.m. commercial property with TCT	San Jose Del Monte, Sapang Palay, Bulacan	PhP700/sq.m. or PhP7.70 Million
002-008	7 industrial lots, 658 sq.m. to 10,811 sq.m. with TCTs	San Jose Del Monte Sapang Palay, Bulacan	PhP800/sq.m. (sale) PhP4/sq.m./mo. (lease)
009-020	12 commercial lots, 240 sq.m. to 978 sq.m. with TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte City	PhP3,000/sq.m. to PhP3,250/sq.m
021-385	365 commercial lots, 70 sq.m. to 355 sq.m. with TCTs	Pandacaqui, Pampanga	PhP1,500 to PhP1,650 (sale) PhP6.25 to PhP6.90/sq.m./mo (lease)
386	212.50 sq.m. commercial lot with TCTs	Penablanca, Tuguegarao	PhP1,300/sq.m
C.	VISAYAS		
001-006	6 commercial lots, 210 sq.m. each with TCTs	Kadungganan, Tacloban	PhP1,525/sq.m.
D.	MINDANAO		
001	11,570 sq.m. commercial property	Macabalan Puntod Cagayan de Oro City	PhP6,500/sq.m. or PhP75.21 Million
IV.	DIRECT AWARD TO ACTUAL OCCUPANTS		
001-023	23 commercial lots, 24.45 to 158.24 sq.m. with TCTs	Bagong Silang,	PhP2,085 to Caloocan City PhP3,025/sq.m.
024-029	6 institutional lots, 78.20 sq.m. to 120 sq.m.	Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	PhP1,650 to PhP2,200/sq.m.
030-160	131 commercial lots, 10 sq.m. to 834 sq.m. with TCTs	Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP7,333.33 to PhP13,750/sq.m.
161-169	8 commercial lots, 50 sq.m. to 243 sq.m. with TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP1,690 to PhP2,500/sq.m.
170-171	2 commercial lots with model units with TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP165,200 and PhP218,060
172-173	2 commercial properties 3,107 sq.m. & 16,600 sq.m. each	Vitas, Tondo	PhP15,000/sq.m.

Bidding Materials for properties offered for public bidding can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED), Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For further inquiry, please contact the following persons: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Mr. Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4581 local 263 & 264.

SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC BIDDING (SECOND TENDER)

A	Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Sept. 8 to Sept. 16, 2003 Office Hours, CIED-NHA Bldg. Elliptical Road, Q.C.
B	Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 10, 2003; 10:00 AM Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg.
C	Submission of Sealed Bids	Sept. 17, 2003; 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN Operations Center, 3rd Floor
D	Opening of Sealed Bids	Sept. 17, 2003; 1:30 PM Operations Center, 3rd Floor

Applications for negotiated sale and direct award may be submitted at the respective NHA Project Offices starting September 1, 2003.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **10 September 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **National Food Authority Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City**, among all interested NFA accredited corn suppliers for the **supply of 150,000 MT, 10% MOLSO yellow corn equivalent to US grade No. 2 or better, of omnibus origin, in bulk or in bags, which should arrive at designated Philippine port/s between 01-31 October 2003.**

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT. All interested suppliers are required to submit price offers in US$MT, CFR, FO cash L/C basis, one/two safe berth/s one (1) safe Philippine port.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the value of the offered quantity in the form of Cashier's/Manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit callable on demand.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 5% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form Cashier's/Manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit callable on demand. Bid bond can be converted to performance bond.

List of Accreditation Requirements, Terms of Reference and Instruction to Bidders may be secured with the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City starting **01 September 2003**.

Submission of accreditation requirements by new applicants shall be between **September 01** from 8:00 a.m. up to 12:00 noon of **September 08, 2003**. Suppliers previously accredited with NFA are required to submit the following documents not later than 12:00 noon of **September 08, 2003:**

1. For non-government suppliers, CY 2002 Audited Financial Statements such as Balance Sheet, Income Statement and independent Certified Public Accountant's certification that he/she has examined/audited the Financial Statements.
2. For government suppliers, CY 2002 Financial Statement such as Balance Sheet, Income Statement certified by the company's Accountant.
3. Authenticated copy of Board Resolution appointing the agent in the Philippines to submit offers; negotiate and sign contracts and other documents in behalf of the principal.
4. For foreign suppliers with no local agents, Special Power of Attorney/Board Resolution/authorization issued by the head of office authorizing the representative/affiant to act for and on behalf of the company and copy of the passport with picture and signature.

The **pre-bidding conference** will be held on **08 September 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at the NFA Boardroom.

Submission of the bid together with the bid bond will be between 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on the tender date. Opening of bids will start exactly **at 2:00 p.m.**

The Bid Terms and Conditions/Offer Sheets will be available starting **08 September 2003** after the pre-bidding conference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI - Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
2nd Floor S&L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd.
cor. Romero Salas Street, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. 525-8843

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested Contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category AAA and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) as Large A in General Engineering for Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering and Large A in General Building for Building and Industrial Plant with experience handling projects "similar" in nature and complexity to this project ("similar" means scope of the work of the project are almost same), to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the project.

Construction of ATN/MAR Support Base and Supply of Office Furnitures and Equipment – Phase I at Punta Engaño, Mactan, Cebu.

The scope of work includes, but not limited to, the construction of ATN/MAR Support Base which comprises a one storey Administration Bldg., construction of wharf, construction of more or less 2.7 km road network, dredging of a 150m x 120m protected harbor, reclamation of a 3.5 ha. area, supply/delivery of an oily water separator system complete with accessories and supply of office furnitures and equipment. The whole works shall be completed within 270 c.d.

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P163,821,925.

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be obtained upon presentation of a valid PCAB License starting September 8, 2003 until September 9, 2003 Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
3rd Floor Columbia Towers
Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Ave., 1555 Mandaluyong City

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the above address in one (1) original and three (3) copies not later than 10:00 AM of October 3, 2003 upon which the opening of the documents shall follow.

Prospective Bidders will be advised of the result of their submissions. Only qualified Bidders will be invited to purchase Bid Documents which will be made available on October 21-28, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 per set.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 14, 2004 at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor Columbia Towers, Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Schedule of the site inspection will be set during the pre-bid conference.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and Bidding process shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO No. 40 Series of 2001 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the Notice, Instructions and Requirements for Prequalification/Eligibility.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect found therein, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid, and accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **AGUSTIN R. BENGSON**
DOTC Undersecretary & Chairman, Bids
and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 6, 8, 10 & 12, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites contractors classified by CIAP and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	Construction of 170,000 cav. cap. Warehouse with Office and Site Development	Construction of Laboratory, Staffhouse with Canteen-three storey building
LOCATION	ANTIPOLO CITY	NFA Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION	Medium "B" minimum	Medium "A" minimum
APPROVED BUDGET	P25,301,704.90	P11.2 Million

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Submission of Letter of Intent	Sept. 8-26, 2003	Sept. 8-10, 2003
Issuance of Letter of Intent	Sept. 8-26, 2003 up to 5:00 PM only	Sept. 8-10, 2003 up to 5:00 PM only
Submission of Accomplished Eligibility forms	Sept. 18-30, 2003 up to 5:00 PM only	Sept. 15-19, 2003 up to 5:00 PM only
Eligibility Check	Oct. 1-2, 2003	Sept. 22-23, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 3-10, 2003 up to 5:00 PM only	Sept. 24-26, 2003
Pre-bidding Conference	Oct. 14, 2003 2:00 PM	Sept. 29, 2003
Submission and Opening of Bids	Oct. 28, 2003 2:00 PM	Oct. 13, 2003

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC), 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms may be secured and submitted at the NFA-BAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent not later than the date stated above and payment of a non-refundable application fee of Php500.00 at National Food Authority, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Bid documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00 for the Antipolo warehouse and P8,000.00 for the 3-storey building at Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable laws, rules and regulations

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids, shall be at the NFA Boardroom, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders, for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 6 & 13, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

September, 2003
Loan No. 1750-PH. TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Audio-Visual and Office Equipment for Courseware Development (ADBTES-02).

2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of various audio visual and office equipment such as cameras, LCD monitors, video player/recorder and other related equipment for use in TESDP.

3. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's International Shopping (IS) procedure, single-stage one-envelope, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document from 9:00-4:00 pm, Monday to Friday from September 8, 2003 at the address given in Item 9 below.

5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below beginning September 8, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,000.00 or US$40.00 to the TESDA Cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila. Foreign bidders may deposit through BSP Account No. 021085295 with Federal Reserved Bank of New York for further credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCD Dollar Account. The method of payment will either be in certified bank cheque or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

6. A Pre-Bid Conference with interested eligible Bidders will be held on October 01, 2003, 2:00 pm at the address below, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon on November 10, 2003, accompanied with a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on November 10, 2003 at 2:00 PM.

8. TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

9. The address of the Project Management Office is:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Compound, TESDP Project Management Office
Ground Floor, Pevoti Building
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines
Contact Person : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
Telefax : (63 2) 8938306

(PDI-Sept. 6 & 13, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Philippine Rice Research Institute
Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), invites parties/contractors duly registered with CIAP and DTI/SEC and currently and properly licensed by PCAB to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the:

Project Description & Approved Budget	CIAP Category & PCAP License Classification	Contract Duration
Seed Warehouse to be constructed (P7M)	Minimum Category is Medium B	120 Calendar days

Project location is at Central Mindanao University, Musuan, Bukidnon.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Registration Requirement Forms to applicant contractors for Eligibility	PhilRice-Agusan Office	September 8, 2003 8:00-5:00
Submission/Acceptance of documents for for Prequalification/Eligibility	PhilRice-Agusan Office	September 12, 2003 8:00-5:00
Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	PhilRice-Agusan Office	September 17, 2003 8:00-5:00
Site Inspection	CMU, Musuan, Bukidnon	September 9, 2003 8:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference	CMU, Musuan, Bukidnon	September 19, 2003 2:00 PM
Bidding Proper	PhilRice Central Office Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	October 6, 2003 2:00 PM

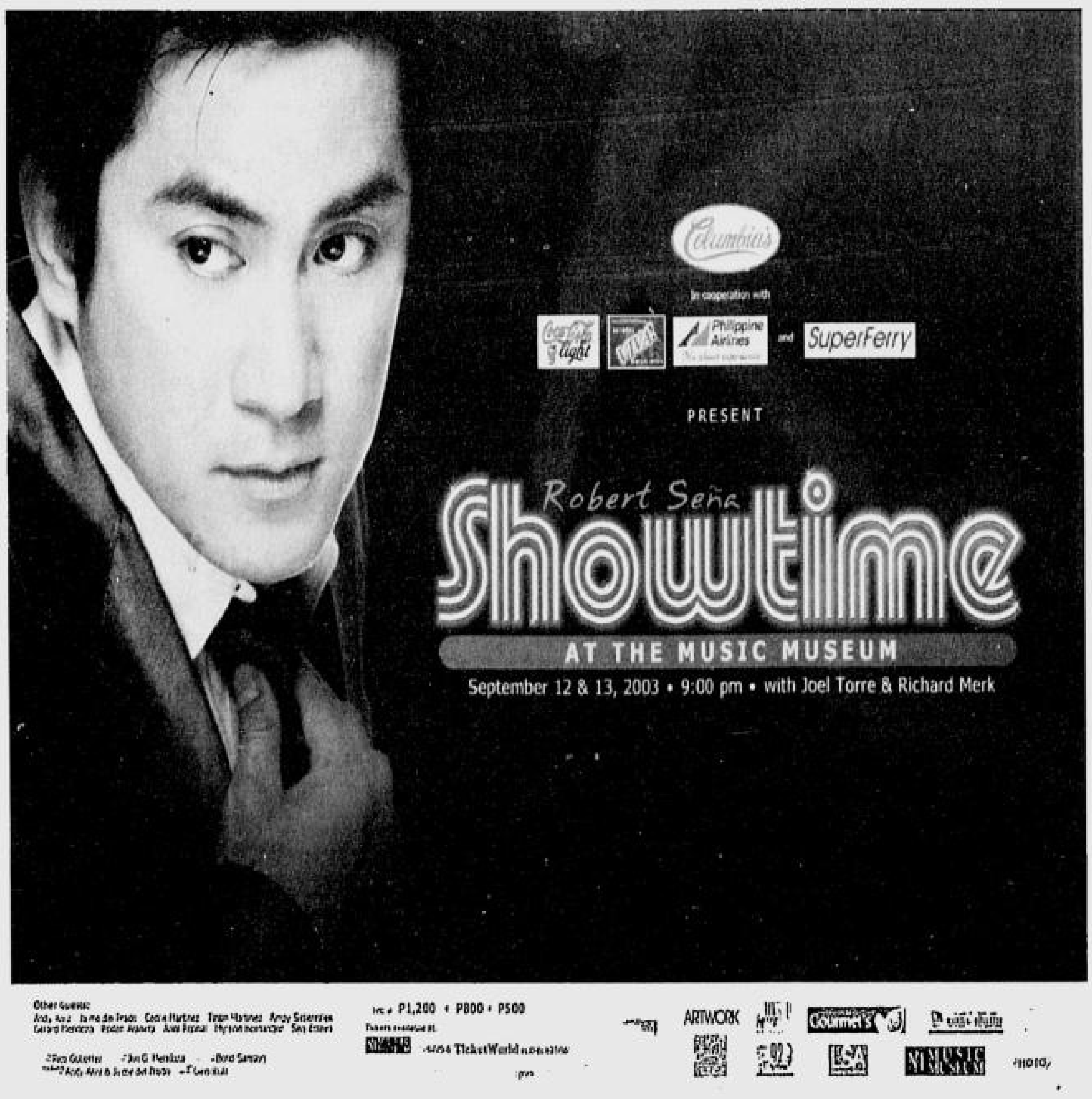
Eligibility requirement forms shall be available at the Office of the Station Head, PhilRice-Agusan, located at Basilisa, RT Romualdez, 8811 Agusan del Norte, upon submission of a letter of intent (addressed to the PhilRice BAC Chair) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php500.00.

Bid Proposal Forms/Tender Documents shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00.

PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any provision thereof, waive any formalities found therein or to accept or reject any bid or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to PhilRice and/or to the government without pre-condition whatsoever.

(Sgd.) **LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN**
Executive Director

(PDI-Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2003)



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MOURNS THE PASSING AWAY OF ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS

1908-2003

GEORGE ATHOS ADAMSON

WHO DIED ON AUGUST 30, 2003 IN
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA AT THE AGE OF 95

His body was permanently interred at the Forest Lawn, Pasadena, California. He was survived by his wife Sofia.

He co-founded Adamson University in 1932 together with his brother Alexander Adamson and cousin George Lucas Adamson. The small trade school they founded as Adamson School of Industrial Chemistry grew to become a major contributor to the post-war national development efforts. Today, his vision of transforming Adamsop University from vocational school to a "finishing school' for topnotch chemists sprang out to several branches of specialization in the Arts, Sciences, Engineering, Business Administration, Law and Graduate Studies that carried the excellent tradition of its original founders.

George Athos Adamson is gone but his dream lives on with Adamson University under the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers- a school that combines excellent academic training with a heart for the socially disadvantaged.

We enjoin all members of the Adamson University Community to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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REQUIEMS
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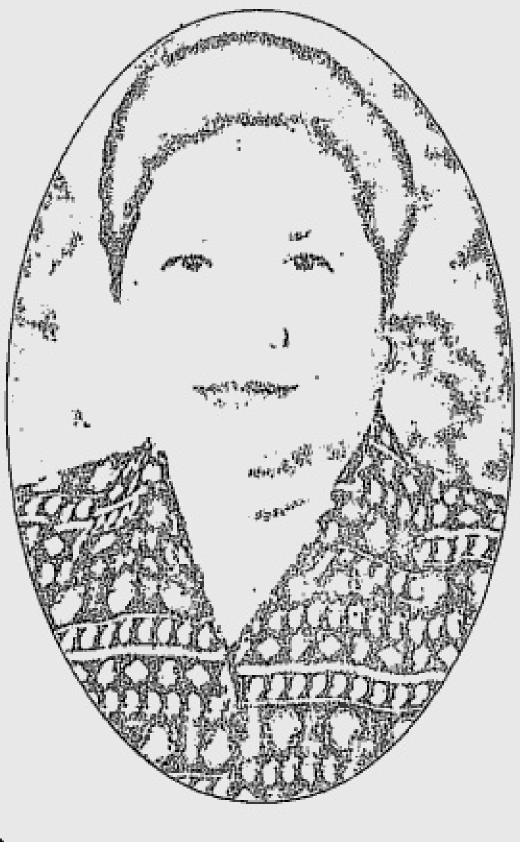

MISS FELISA J MARIN

Board Member (1967 - 1986 & 1993 - 2003)
who passed away on 03 September 2003.

Her body lies in state at Premier 2,
Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 09 September 2003
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City
immediately after the 12:00 noon Mass.

BRIG. GEN. ROMEO M. RECIÑA (Ret.)

of Malaybalay City and Quezon City

Member of PMA Class 1957 and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Former Regional Commander and Regional Unified Commander, Region XI, Davao.

Peacefully joined his Creator on 04 September 2003 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife **Judge Aurora P. Navarrete-Reciña**, retired Chairperson of the Commission of Human Rights; sons **Dr. Raymond-Rufo N. Reciña** and **Atty. Ronald-Marcus N. Reciña**; and grandson **Raymond-Paolo**, brothers and sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz.

The Board of Directors, Officers, Members and Staff of
Valley Golf & Country Club, Inc.
wish to extend their deepest sympathy to the
bereaved family of

Orlando C. Tomacruz
(Director)

who peacefully joined our Lord
on September 4, 2003 at the age of 75.

He is survived by his loving wife **Alicia** and his children **Cirus** and **Arlene**, **Cynthia** and **Jojo**, **Cherry** and **Dave**, **Cedric**, **Sonny** and **Ruby**.

Grandchildren:

Cathy, **Liza**, **Little**, **Tin-tin**, **Carl**, **Jay**, **Lyndon**, **Joanna**, **Trisha** and **Kitkat** and his 2 little angels **Jade** and **Miles**.

His body lies in state at Taytay United Methodist Church, Taytay, Rizal. Necrological services will be at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 7, 2003; after which the body will be cremated at Loyola Crematory.

Engr. Edilberto Borja Santiago

of San Rafael, Bulacan and Skokie, Illinois

Joined our Heavenly God on September 1, 2003 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his loving wife **Offie Santiago y Leuterio**; children **Ma. Teresita**, **Edilberto II (Mae Hilado)**, **Francisco**, **Eduardo (Mañanita Villangca)**, and **Edilberto III (Russelle Yrastorza)**; grandchildren **Reynald Jay**, **Therese Mae**, and **Joshua Edward**; brothers **Reynaldo (Purita)** of Guam, USA, **Armando (Norma)**; sisters **Fredisminda** of Manila, Philippines, and **Teresita (Carlos)** Centeno of Florida, USA.

In Loving Memory on the 1st Death
Anniversary of

CARMEN C. ZITA

(May 9, 1902 – September 7, 2002)
and
on the 20th Death Anniversary of

TOMAS T. ZITA

(March 7, 1896 – September 16, 1983)

Their children Alegria, Bella, Carmen, Lucia, Milagros, Rosario, Zenaida & Tomas Jr.; sons-in-law & daughter-in-law, grandchildren & great-grandchildren request their relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of their souls.

Holy Masses will be offered on September 7, 2003 at:

Sta. Clara de Montefalco .. Pasig	5:00 p.m
Holy Family Parish .. Kapitolyo, Pasig	6:00 p.m
St. Francis Church .... Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong	6:00 a.m

GRACIA RENIVA CONDE

Died peacefully on September 4, 2003 at the age of 90.

Her daughter **Antonia Conde De Leon**; son-in-law **Gene** and family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Nuestra Sra. De Salvacion, Oas, Albay on September 7, 8 and 9, 2003.

Interment will be on Wednesday morning, September 10, 2003 at Oas Cemetery.

> "I am the resurrection and life.
> He who believes in Me will live,
> even though he dies; and whoever
> believes in Me will never die."
>
> **John 11:25-26**

DEATH NOTICE

Juan M. Sulit
May 17, 1905 – September 5, 2003

His body lies in state at his residence in Poblacion, Lobo, Batangas.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2003, 2 p.m. at Holy Angels Cemetery, Lobo, Batangas.

Unmasking cardiac syndrome X

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

VIENNA—One baffling case for physicians is cardiac syndrome X, or SX. Heart specialists meeting here discussed this syndrome and its treatment.

SX is defined by the presence of chest pains, as in angina pectoris, which is caused by ischemia, or a lack of oxygen in the heart. Treadmill or exercise test also suggests ischemia, but when a doctor performs coronary angiogram—a procedure which visualizes the heart arteries by inserting a catheter through the groin—the bigger heart arteries (epicardial arteries) appear normal.The general long-term outcome for patients with SX is good, but the symptoms can be bothersome or even disabling. Many patients repeatedly follow up with their doctors and are given all sorts of heart medications, without significant relief. Some are thought to just be malingering and faking their symptoms.

SX occurs in up to 20 percent of patients with chest pains undergoing coronary angiogram. The prevalence is significantly higher among postmenopausal women than among men.

Dysfunction of arteries

The main cause of SX is attributed to a dysfunction of the smaller heart arteries, hence some call this microvascular angina. This is indicated by an abnormal response of the coronary microcirculation to drugs that induce constriction of small heart arteries.

It has long been debated whether microvascular dysfunction is severe enough to yield findings of heart ischemia.

On one hand, routine ECG, treadmill test or more sophisticated tests like myocardial thallium imaging show findings similar in patients with occluded epicardial arteries. One distinction the physician must look for is the absence of abnormal heart motion as seen on two-dimensional echocardiogram (2-D echo). These abnormalities are noted during stress-induced chest pain in patients with significantly occluded epicardial arteries.

Recent studies show substances in the blood indicating ischemia during stress. Hopefully these tests will soon be available in the Philippines.

Compensatory mechanism

It has been suggested that ischemia might be limited to multiple tiny areas within the heart muscles supplied by the small arteries. In this case the impairment of overall heart function is difficult to detect because of compensatory mechanisms of the heart.

The heart does not complain initially as it bears the burden of a lack of oxygenation. However, this compensatory mechanism also entails a sustained release of adenosine (a chemical known to provoke chest pains). This stimulates nerve fibers, thus causing pain, which is particularly severe in the presence of enhanced pain perception or a shallow threshold for pain.

The causes of small-vessel, or microvascular, dysfunction are probably multiple. Some studies have shown altered mineral and electrolyte imbalances triggering a variety of mechanisms. Estrogen deficiency may contribute to the development of SX by enhancing blood-vessel reactivity or endothelial dysfunction.

Some features help distinguish patients with SX from those in whom angina is mainly caused by obstructed heart arteries.

In patients with SX, chest pain lasts for more than 30 minutes and is not promptly relieved by nitrate tablets. Also, chest pain and ECG findings typically develop in the absence of heart wall motion abnormalities seen on 2-D echo.

When clinical history and noninvasive test results are uncertain, an angiogram showing normal coronary arteries is needed to confirm SX.

Clues as to the presence of chest pain due to coronary spasm are: chest pain at rest in the presence of preserved exercise or activity tolerance; night-time angina when one is asleep; characteristic ECG findings seen transiently with the chest pains. However, when the patient is rushed to the hospital when the chest pain has subsided, the ECG may be perfectly normal already. Hence, many of these cases are diagnosed to have anxiety-related chest pain and dismissed by their physicians without proper treatment.

Both short- and long-term prognosis of patients with SX are excellent. Yet symptoms can be severe, incapacitating and refractory to conventional treatment with drugs commonly prescribed for chest pains.

Heart specialists suggest additional drugs which might help control symptoms. These include estrogen for postmenopausal women, adenosine antagonists (theophylline or bamiphylline) and drugs prescribed in the treatment of chronic pain syndromes (imipramine or desipramine).

If these don't work, spinal cord stimulation may improve symptoms and exercise tolerance and might be considered a treatment option.

HOTEL guests use the observatory's telescope, powerful enough to view Mars.

A brighter Mars sparks occupancy of hotel observatory

Text and photo
by Charles E. Buban

THE BIGGEST Mars encounter in more than 50,000 years is under way, and that has sparked an upsurge of guests heading to Seven Suites Hotel Observatory in Antipolo City.

Located on a gently sloping hill on Sumulong Highway, the hotel observatory offers a grand vantage point—elevated and away from city lights—to view the Red Planet.

"We are the only hotel here in the area and perhaps in the country that has an 8-inch telescope that our guests can peer into," said Ms Marga Uy Baula, Seven Suites sales and marketing manager.

No wonder, guests from all ages, especially children, are lining up nowadays to spend a night or two at the hotel observatory.

Astronomy lectures

Last week was especially busy for Seven Suites particularly for its resident astronomer who gave lectures on the Mars event as well as other topics in astronomy.

"Planet Mars hugged most of the inquiries last week as the Red Planet headed toward an unusually close pass with our planet last Aug. 27, and the next time these two will come this close again will be on Aug. 28, 2287," informed Ramon Acevedo, whose audiences were mostly made up of primary and high school students last week.

Last Aug. 27, the two planets were much closer by 30 percent (about 55.75 million kilometers apart). The last time these two were this close was around the year 57,617 B.C.

"Mars will be just as bright for the next few days, and will continue to serve as a celestial object of interest for weeks to come so guest will have several more chances to catch the Red Planet through our telescope here whenever the night sky is not permitting," suggested Acevedo referring to the past few days' occasionally overcast skies.

The hotel observatory is equipped with an 8-inch Celestron C-8 Schmidst-Cassegrain telescope, powerful enough to view Mars or at least check the time at Manila City Hall's historic clock (whenever clouds obscure sky observation).

"While our guests gaze at the planets and the stars above, they will surely enjoy the amenities we offer," said Baula.

Lowly soy sauce gets due recognition

By Charles E. Buban

FILIPINO food lovers have long extolled the (tasty) virtues of soy sauce. But recent research may convince more people to use this condiment as something more than just a flavoring on their everyday meal.

Isoflavones, a powerful phytochemical or compounds found only in plants and especially abundant in soybeans, have been proven in many studies to be an effective anticarcinogen.

Studies have shown that the low incidence of cancer among Oriental men and women is related to the consumption of isoflavone-rich food such as tofu, miso, taho and other bean curd products, which are staples in most Asian cuisine.

"A considerable intake of soy foods in Asian countries has long been credited, at least by some researchers, for the lower rate of prostate cancer among Asian men and breast cancer among Asian women, compared with their counterparts in countries where little soy is consumed," said Dr. Trinidad Trinidad of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

The average Asian eats enough soy to get about 30 mg to 50 mg of isoflavones daily.

"Isoflavones is the focus of our campaign against cancer called the "KKK: Kain Kontra Kanser" that advocates the need for regular intake of soy protein, proper diet and a healthy lifestyle to prevent the development of this disease," said Luis Alejandro of the Southeast Asian Food Inc., manufacturer of Datu Puti soy sauce, which recently was fortified with isoflavones.

"To us Filipinos, soya intake comes in the form of eating *tokwa*, *taho* and using soy sauce, or *toyo*, in adding flavor to food or using it as a dip for certain dishes," Alejandro said.

Combating cancer

Isoflavones may help reduce breast cancer by blocking the cancer-causing effects of human estrogen. They may also prevent prostate cancer by hindering cell growth.

Results from a University of California study show that genistein, an isoflavone found in soya beans, slowed prostate cancer growth and caused cancer cells to die in a way similar to many cancer-treatment drugs.

But this finding does not mean people should start taking excessive amounts of soya, like drinking soy sauce.

Researchers recommend consuming about one to two servings of soya-based products a day.

How to energize an exhausted heart

NO other organ in the human body is ever so active as the heart. From the time we are in our mother's womb until we breathe our last, the heart beats more than two-and-a-half billion times, without ever pausing to rest. It is our body's life pump, pumping a daily average of 1,900 gallons of blood that is circulated in our body providing the power needed for its proper functioning.

Therefore, our heart needs all the energy it can get to keep going. Aside from maintaining a healthy lifestyle, one way to keep your heart energized is with L-carnitine, an important substance in the body's metabolism which guides the fat toward the mitochondria, known as the furnace centers of the cell, where it is burned and converted into energy.

L-carnitine is a derivative of the amino acid, lysine. It was first isolated from meat (carnus), which is where its name was also derived. Because of its functions, L-carnitine is most concentrated in tissues that use fat as their source of fuel or energy, such as the skeletal and cardiac muscle. Under certain conditions, the demand for L-carnitine may exceed an individual's capacity to synthesize it, making it a conditionally essential nutrient.

Heart's energy needs

Since 60 to 80 percent of the heart's energy requirements are derived from the breakdown of fat, it is the one most likely to suffer from L-carnitine deficiency. Studies show that by stimulating the energy supply to the heart, L-carnitine, may increase performance of the heart and improve heart muscle function, thus preventing fatigue, poor circulation and breathlessness.

L-carnitine is an important nutrient, especially for today's society, which thrives on fat-rich food and sedentary lifestyle. By helping burn fat, L-carnitine has been proven to lower health risks caused by inefficient fat metabolism associated with unhealthy lifestyle practices and diseases such as diabetes. It has also been reported to lessen the risk of heart disorders, by preventing the buildup of fat, especially in the muscles, liver and the heart.

Beneficial to the heart

Reliable scientific data and studies have proven that L-carnitine's actions are especially beneficial to the heart. In a preliminary study conducted by Digiesi V, et al., patients with diabetes and high blood pressure were given four grams of L-carnitine per day. After 45 weeks, arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) and other parameters of heart dysfunction decreased significantly.

L-carnitine is also a necessary nutrient for people who have just suffered a heart attack: According to a study by Davini et al., taking four gm of L-carnitine a day will influence a heart attack patient's chance of survival by limiting the damage extended to their heart. Therefore, death can be prevented and the need for regular medication can be reduced.

L-carnitine (Carnicor) is locally distributed by Pascual Laboratories. For more information on the benefits of L-carnitine and how it can energize your heart, call the Carnicor Hotline at 920-1911 local 146.

Screwtop locks up old pills forever

LONDON—Out-of-date medicines could be locked away for good with a biodegradable plastic screwtop invented by British scientists that stops bottles being opened after the expiry date.

Many drugs, including antibiotics, are ineffective or even dangerous after their expiration date, but until now there has been no reliable way of stopping patients from taking them.

Researchers at the University of Salford in northern England believe they have cracked the problem by using tabs of special plastic that break down over time and prevent the medicine bottle from being unscrewed.

The "life" of each bottle is set by changing the proportion of various biodegradable additives in the plastic, according to a patent application filed by the inventors.

Reuters

Rina C. Luna, mother of four and diabetic,
on PHARMACOECONOMICS

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
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Psoriasis: an itchy, unsightly disease

Tessa R. Salazar

AaaRGH!
StephB.

MANY think it's *galis* (scabies) and avoid people who have unsightly scales, plaques and flakes on their skin.

But psoriasis is not scabies, it is not contagious.

It is also not life threatening.

But the sad fact is that this chronic genetic disease still has no known cure. Its symptoms can be treated, but only temporarily. Itchy, unsightly psoriasis is stubborn, returning anytime it is triggered.

The disease, which often runs in families, is characterized by scaling and inflammation.

Scaling occurs when new skin cells are being produced 10 times faster than dying cells are shed. Scaling manifests most commonly on the scalp, elbows, knees, hands, nails, feet and genitals.

Psoriasis is likely a disorder of the immune system where a type of white blood cell known as the T cell, which protects the body against infection and disease, triggers the inflammation and excessive skin cell reproduction.

Psoriasis is a global, multiracial problem. Up to 80 million people worldwide are afflicted with it. The figure is less among Asians. For those of African descent, psoriasis cases are even fewer.

Dr. Benjamin C. Vitasa, a dermatologist and a professor at the UP College of Public Health, said this could be due to the genetic makeup of Asians.

"And (plenty of) sunlight is one of the factors that help improve skin condition," Vitasa said.

Many types

Psoriasis could become so severe that it could restrict motion at the joints and cause emotional distress. Vitasa said some patients commit suicide as a result of physical and psychological traumas.

Psoriasis appears in many forms and in varying stages, depending on the extent of its spread on a person's skin.

The most common type— plaque psoriasis—is characterized by thickened patches of red skin covered by silvery scales.

Pus-like blisters in another type—pustular psoriasis—may be triggered by medications, infections, emotional stress or exposure to certain chemicals.

Intense redness and swelling of a large part of the skin surface accompanied by itching or pain is erythrodermic psoriasis. This is triggered by severe sunburn, use of oral steroids or something as simple as sweating.

If large, dry, smooth, vividly red plaques occur in the folds of the skin such as those near the genitals, under the breasts or in the armpits, it is known as inverse psoriasis. This painful and itchy type is caused and aggravated by friction and sweating.

Small droplet-like lesions appearing on the trunk, limbs and scalp caused by bacterial infections is known as Guttate psoriasis.

Treatment

Vitasa said more than 50 percent of people with psoriasis improve within two weeks with the use of topical treatment, steroids and calcipotriene (topical cream).

"Psoriasis can be treated, and it will go away. But it would most likely recur, although the general health and lifespan of the person is not affected," said Vitasa.

Treatment depends on the severity and the type of psoriasis involved. It usually starts with topical medicines (corticosteroids, calcipotriene, coal tar, anthralin, topical retinoid, salicylic acid, bath solutions, moisturizers) and exposure to sunlight.

If those aren't enough, treatment using light (like ultraviolet B) is done.

The last step in treatment involves taking oral medicines or having injections to suppress the immune system from producing excess skin cells. These drugs, however, have bad side effects, including liver damage and anemia.

Triggers

"Friction or trauma is one of the triggering factors of psoriasis. If you have manifest psoriasis, it could trigger more of the disease," said Vitasa.

He added that climate is one trigger for psoriasis. He said cold weather worsens the disease by 90 percent, yet the condition improves by 80 percent during warm weather.

A recent study by British researchers showed that stress from worrying worsens psoriasis. And previous studies have found that patients who listened to stress reduction tapes while undergoing treatment healed faster.

Hormones and obesity can also be factors. It can also be caused by viral infections, HIV, injuries and drugs such as lithium, beta blockers, indomethacin, oral contraceptives and anti-malarials.

Psychological support

Vitasa said that during the past week alone he treated three psoriasis cases, and the psychological outlook of the patients was bad.

"Even if you have explained the disease to them, they feel so depressed because it recurs," he said.

Vitasa's patients included a 67-year-old woman and a middle-aged man who refused to show himself to his family and friends when the disease recurred.

"You have to be frank and honest with patients with psoriasis, at the same time you should be supportive," Vitasa said.

A recent editorial in the Archives of Dermatology published by the American Medical Association said psoriasis can be very devastating for sufferers.

"Psoriasis is a life-disabling disorder in which 8 percent to 10 percent of patients aged 18 to 54 years actively contemplate suicide because of their disease," wrote Alice Gottlieb of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Psoriasis sufferers need all the psychological support they can get. If stress is a factor that can worsen the disease, lessening the stress at its source can help reduce the recurrence of the disease.

Family, friends and the rest of society also need to know more about the disease so they could understand psoriasis sufferers better. *With a report from Reuters*

Re(s)training oneself (v2)

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

DURING the past two weeks, news from the scientific community has promoted the health-giving benefits of dark chocolate and red wine.

According to the Aug. 28 issue of Nature, dark chocolate can help fight heart disease because of antioxidant properties that are greatly reduced when milk gets added to the mix.

We already know about antioxidants from all the soap commercials; they keep all those nasty free radical oxygen atoms from giving people wrinkles. Suffice it to say that antioxidants keep the cells from aging, which keeps people looking—and feeling—younger.

It's also the reason caloric restriction diets are so good at making people live longer, but the relationship between rationed food supplies and the body's resulting ability to ward off more diseases is too complicated to explain right now. And I was talking about chocolate and red wine, which are important components of the meal (chocolate can be a meal in itself as it's considered the perfect food). So back we go to the topic at hand.

Secret to chocolate

According to researchers from the National Institute for Food and Nutrition Research in Italy and the University of Glasgow in Scotland, the secret to dark chocolate's healthy goodness is epicatechin, a polyphenol (a plant chemical with major antioxidant properties) which is considered the reason green tea is so good at lowering bad cholesterol and may even have anti-obesity properties. I guess that means those green tea slimming products may be on track after all.

Still, the point is, dark chocolate should be part of your diet if you want to have a healthy heart and lower cholesterol, and green tea should be on your list of good eats, too, with apologies to Alton Brown for stealing his line.

But green tea and chocolate aren't new to the people-take-note-these-foods-are-healthy-and-good-but-only-when-taken-in-moderation list. (Well, OK, all foods are good in moderation, but some more so than others.)

Researchers have been publishing papers on these two foods for years when they're not alternately praising and discrediting the health benefits of coffee. What the public may not have been aware of is that red wine has made it to the list as well.

French paradox

For years researchers all over the world have been trying to figure out how the French have managed to live long and healthy lives with lots of wine and cheese and foods with rich-fattening sauces. (The answer also explains why Mediterranean diets with red wine and olive oil have recently even touted as being extremely heart-healthy.)

In 1997 Brouillard et al. from Louis Pasteur University in France got on the right track when they identified several polyphenols in red wine. Their work was validated three years later by Faruolo et al. in Italy.

Enter the Aug. 24 issue of Nature, where scientists from Biomol Research Laboratories found that the polyphenol resveratrol mimics the antioxidant properties of caloric restriction in the model organism baker's yeast, prolonging said organism's life by 70 percent. That's like a human with a lifespan of 80 years living to be nearly 140.

Beer healthy, too

Also worth noting is the work of researchers from the University of Western Ontario in Canada, whose paper in the Aug. 1 issue of the Journal of Agricultural Food Chemistry suggests that drinking lager beer provides the same health benefits one gets from drinking red wine, i.e., protecting the heart and maintaining levels of (very) low density lipoproteins, a.k.a. the bad cholesterol.

And I'm still trying to find evidence to back up news reports that research presented before the European Society of Cardiology's conference last weekend found that two glasses of red wine counteracts the coronary effects of smoking one cigarette. Somehow I doubt that this news benefits chain smokers; occasional smokers should give up the habit now (it's much better in the long run than any alternative) and learn to like red wine in the interim.

To recap then, polyphenols are good, and foods rich in polyphenols (there are lots of them so this isn't hard) such as olive oil, dark chocolate, green tea, beer and red wine are good for your heart and may even let you live longer and more fulfilling lives. The key is to incorporate such foods into one's diet, and eat them in moderation.

Much as I'd like to argue that one can never have enough chocolate, or mangoes for that matter, too much of a good thing can and does do more harm than good. For example, you could get so sick of them you'll never eat one again, and life without chocolate or mangoes is not worth living.

Proud to be teachers

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(First of three parts)

YESTERDAY, as the culmination of Metrobank's anniversary, 12 teachers from the elementary, high school and college levels nationwide were awarded trophies and cash prizes, and joined the ranks of Metrobank Foundation's Outstanding Teachers. I was honored to make the response on behalf of the awardees, as follows:

Former President Corazon Aquino, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, Chair Rolando Dizon, Dr. Ronald Post, Chair Bayani Fernando, Mayor Jose Atienza Jr., Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, other members of the board of judges, Chair George Ty, Dr. Placido Mapa Jr., Mr. Antonio Abacan Jr., ladies and gentlemen: Good evening.

I never dreamed of becoming a teacher.

In elementary school, buoyed by visions of Albert Schweitzer, I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my parents and grow up to be a doctor.

But in high school, shocked with the dissection of my first frog in biology and filled with the cynicism of a know-it-all teenager, I vowed to make money, and where else would the path lead to but business—preferably, as the boss of my own enterprise. To top it off, business was the recommended path in the Chinoy culture.

Love for math

I have always loved math and English, the sciences and the humanities, equally, and at the college crossroads, I had an excruciating time debating upon which to expend my energies.

A counselor remarked that not possessing a literature degree would not stop me from immersing myself in great works, but the abstractions of advanced math would probably require mentorship.

Of course at the back of my mind there was always the thought that math would open doors to multinational corporations, banks and ultimately, my own business.

To ensure that I did not lose my enthusiasm for the arts, I chose Ateneo, and happily immersed myself in philosophy, theology, and the classics, amid calculus, number theory and finite geometry.

I decided to join a transnational corporation after graduation, work there for a couple of years, and set up my own company.

But fate—God!—intervened.

In senior year, during my theology oral exam, Fr. Asandas Balchand, S.J., bluntly inquired as to my plans. Then he urged, "I think you should teach for a bit. Give back to the school."

My next class happened to be graph theory, and after an oral presentation, Dr. Marijo Ruiz, herself a Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardee, smilingly said, "Your discussion was clear and thorough. You should think about teaching."

Two invitations to teach in a day! Yes, God often works in mysterious ways, but sometimes it does not take a genius to figure out His call.

Fine, I would teach in Ateneo for a year; and after that, start earning!

Respect for teachers

During the final judging phase of the Metrobank Search last July, I was struck by Education Secretary De Jesus' question: "Why do you think teachers today are not very much respected?"

At that time I argued that never in my career was I met with disrespect. On the contrary, I claimed, every time I gave a seminar or spoke on air, my ideas seemed to be taken seriously, and parents, businesspeople and students alike would seek my advice.

However, after much reflection, I realized that there was truth to the query. When I first decided to teach, some people wondered why I was wasting my efforts on such an inglorious profession.

But students' eyes would light up after a difficult, albeit rewarding, calculus session. They would ask for exercises way beyond homework requirements, and exclaim that math was, after all, quite enjoyable.

At the end of the semester, computer science majors serenaded me with melodies of thanks, accompanied by guitars and flutes.

Counselor, friend

Moreover, during our consultation hours, kids poured out their heartaches—about parents on the verge of separation, sweethearts caught in betrayal, lives seemingly without purpose. More often than not I could only remain silent, for what these not-quite-children-not-quite-adults needed most was empathy, and concern, and time.

So how could I leave after a year? After two years? After five years?

That was 1987, and I am still here. All 12 of us are still here. Because in teaching we have received so much. We have been rewarded more than we have given away.

In a world where finance and power rule, our lives have often been plagued with frustration and doubt; but in this same world sorely lacking in ideals and compassion, our lives have also been illumined by faith, hope and love.

Free diabetes testing next week

THE PHILIPPINE Diabetes Association (PDA), Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN) and Sanofi-Synthelabo are spearheading a nationwide campaign to heighten awareness on the importance of screening people with type-2 diabetes.

A "Dipping Day" will be conducted for free in 31 hospitals in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao on Sept. 13 to screen type-2 diabetes patients for microalbuminuria, the first warning sign of diabetic kidney disease.

Microalbuminuria can be measured by simple and routine laboratory test known as a "dipstick test." Annual testing for microalbuminuria is recommended for all people with diabetes.

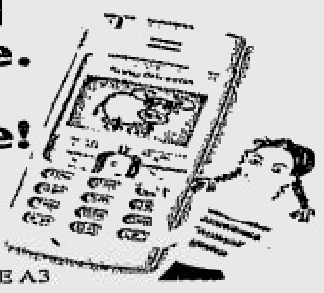
"Dipping Day" is part of an international campaign known as Demand (Developing Education on Microalbuminuria for Awareness of Renal and Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes) initiated by the International Diabetes Federation and the International Society of Nephrology.

Diabetes is a common disease affecting approximately 177 million people worldwide.

The vast majority of these people have type-2 diabetes. The World Health Organization predicts that this figure will increase to more than 300 million people in the next 25 years.

For a list of participating centers, call the Medical Department of Sanofi-Synthelabo Phils. at 813-2156 or also check nearby hospitals for announcements.

Read more. Win more!



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre

Shangri-La Plaza
Streetscape BOSSA NOVA NIGHTS
•Blue Note Funk, Friday, Sept. 5
•Sound, Saturday, Sept. 6

Robert Seña showcased in dream concert

SEÑA. Most of the songs in his solo show are his "all-time favorites."

By Andy P. Bais

COME Sept. 12 and 13, local audience will get the rare chance to experience the feel of the 'Big Band' era in Robert Seña's big solo concert, "Showtime," at Music Museum, at 9 p.m.

Heart and mind

The dream show, which has been in Robert's heart and mind since his stint in "Ms Saigon" in London, will highlight not only his acclaimed vocal gift but his dancing prowess as well, in a show-stopping song and dance number.

"I grew up in theater, so it's my soul. 'Showtime' is a very cabaret-ish type of show. *Ayoko kasi ng nakatayo lang sa* stage to render a song.

"We've offered this type of show to concert producers, but they didn't want to take the risk. So, we decided to produce it ourselves," Robert reveals.

What is Robert's objective in putting up his first-ever big solo slow? *"Hindi naman sa pagmamayabang,* but we can change the type of shows usually presented on the concert scene. Often, you see dancers *na wala namang* connection *sa kinakanta ng* singer. As for choice of songs, *sinasama ang mga kanta sa* line-up *dahil uso.* Our show will provide an alternative for people who want a different kind of entertainment fare," he says.

Optimistic

Robert is optimistic that there is an audience for this type of concept, just waiting for the show to be produced. He expects an "older" crowd that is looking for the type of entertainment it doesn't usually get. *"Pero mas maganda kung pati* crowd *ng* F4 *manoonood sa akin.*

ROBERT/ C2

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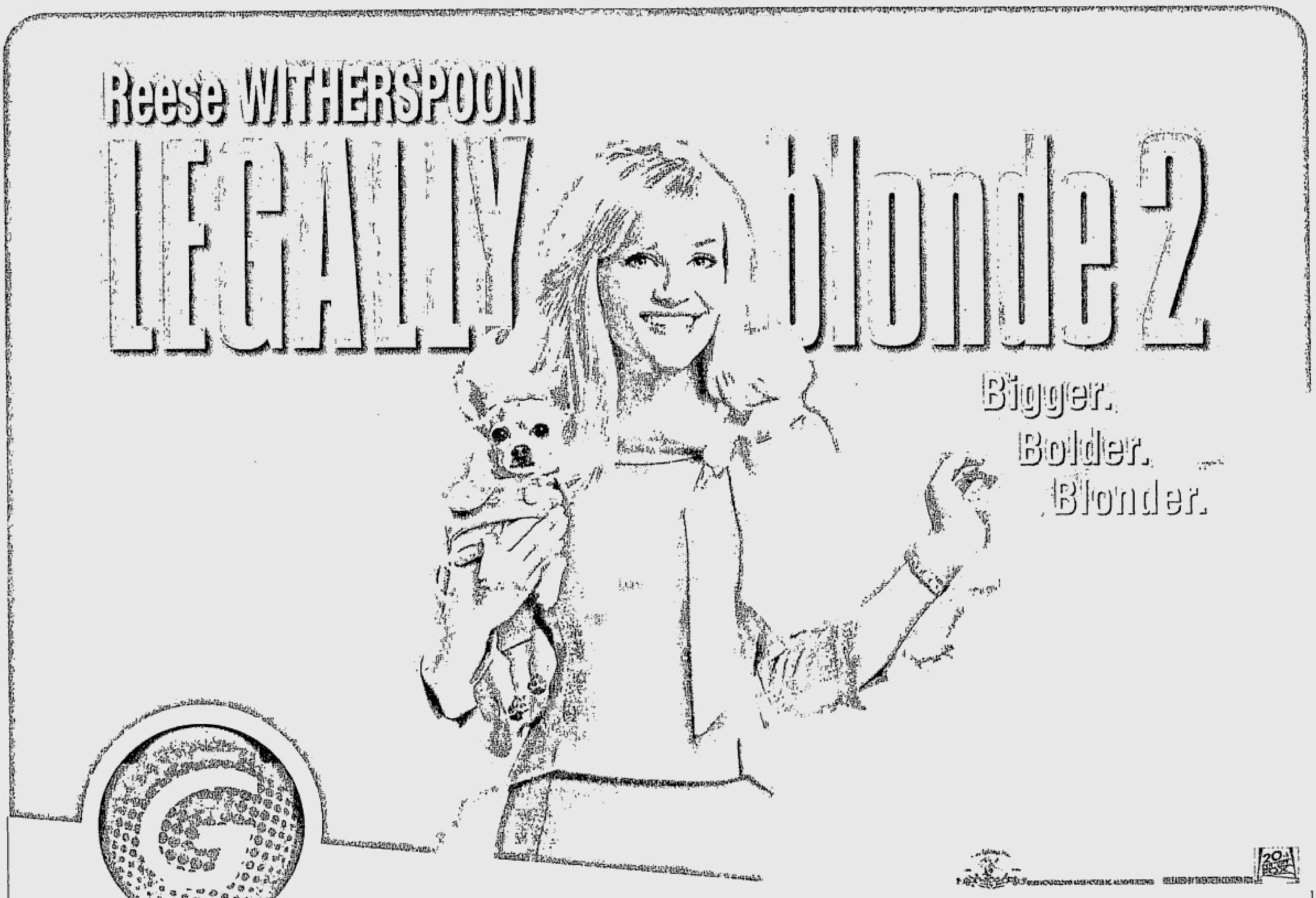

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Robert Seña . . .

From page C1

Mas marami, mas masaya!," he laughs.

Robert's repertoire does not include the usual songs we hear in concerts nowadays. "Most of them are my all-time favorites, the songs I've grown up with," he shares.

His line-up of songs includes standards like "Fly Me to the Moon," "Come Fly With Me," "The Way You Look Tonight," "La Donna E Mobile," "The Impossible Dream" and "Pity the Child." He will also have a chance to let his hair down in his exciting "Tragedy" and "Disco Inferno" numbers.

His special guests are Joel Torre and Richard Merk. Robert's duet of "O Sole Mio" with Merk promises to be a special treat. It will highlight Richard's jazz and

ROBERT/C3

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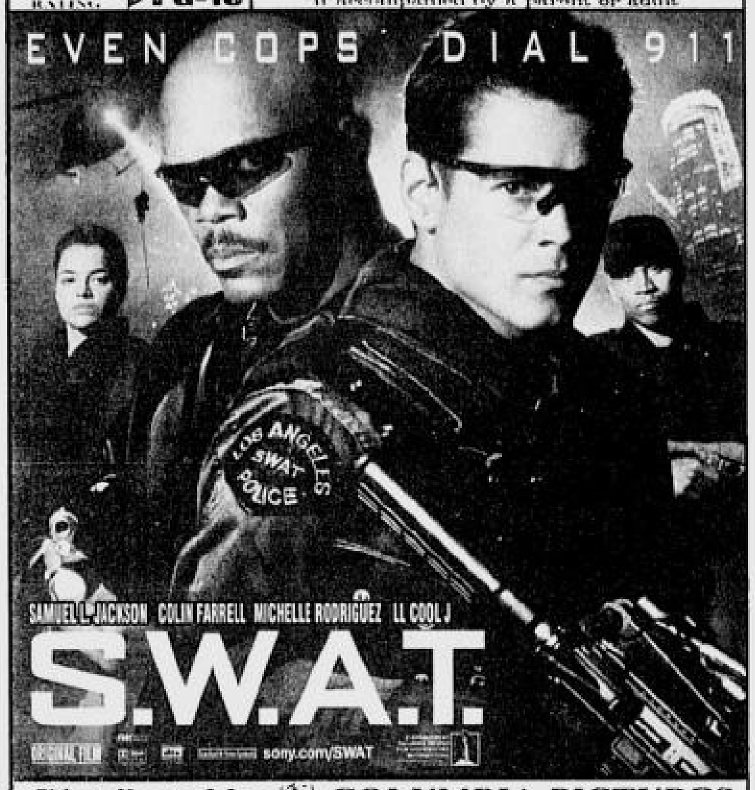

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SPY KIDS 3D **GP** 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 **S.W.A.T** **PG13** 6:50, 9:20	**PINAY PIE** **PG13** 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25	**LEGALLY BLONDE 2** **GP** 12:00, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30

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Ali 2	PINAY PIE
Ali 3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 4	SWAT
Ali 5	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 6	SINBAD
Ali 7	LEGALLY BLONDE

ARANETA COLISEUM

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SEPT 7	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. SHELL
SEPT 10	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
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THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WWW XXX COM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	TALK TO HER
CINEMA-3	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-6	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	SINBAD
CINEMA-14	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-15	PINAY PIE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-1	WWW XXX.COM
CINEMA-2	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-4	VIEW FROM THE TOP
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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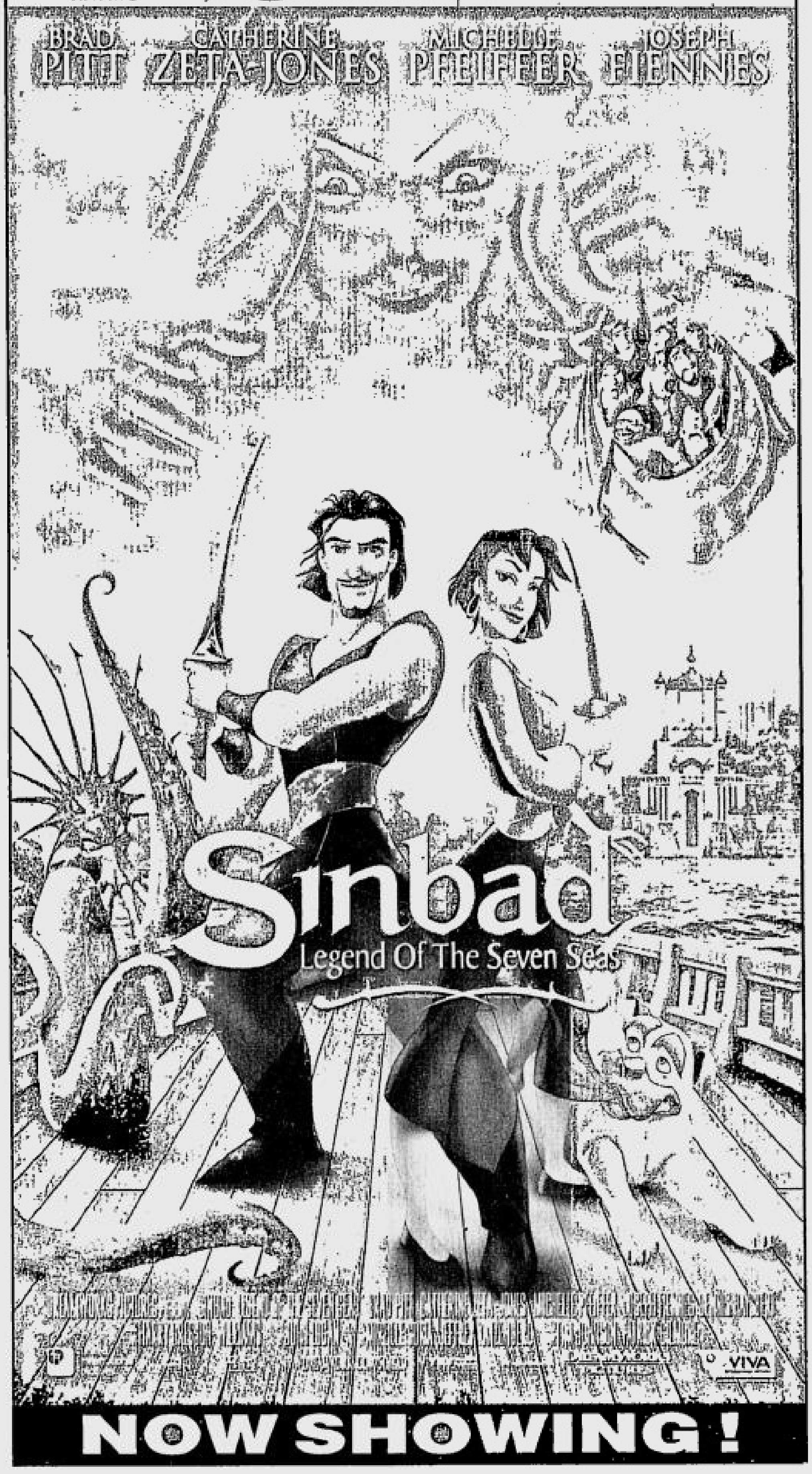

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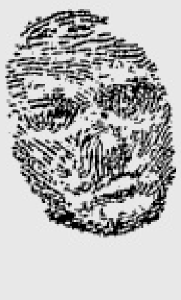

The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in the pages of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

AM/FM

Brad's guileless candor is delightful

By Rito P. Asilo

RADIO offers a closer, subtly voyeuristic scrutiny of the minds of celebrities. For stars who have achieved celebrity status in films and on the small screen, radio may seem a less intimidating format.

But it doesn't take them long to realize that, while they don't have to cover their zits with concealers or employ the services of wardrobe sponsors, guesting on or hosting radio programs requires more than just a pleasing personality and an ability to confidently read teleprompters and idiot boards.

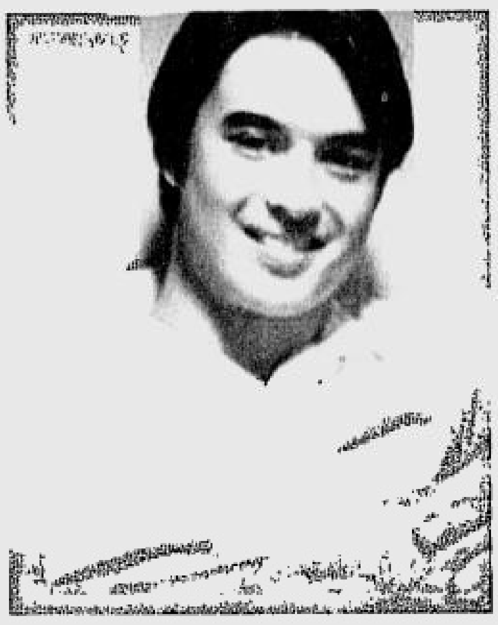
Language

If you are not the articulate type, stick to the language you're more comfortable with, or risk falling flat on your face!

Given our impatience with repetitive formats, one program that we don't mind listening to on a daily basis is Chico Garcia (we learned that his real name is Frederick Lagbao) and Delamar Arias' popular daily show, "Morning Rush," 6-9 a.m. Monday to Saturday on FM's RX 93.1.

The duo may not have started this "he said, she said" style on the air, but they certainly have injected a fresh, fun spin on the format—which is probably why their listeners have patiently followed them around as they switched stations, from RX to KC, and back to RX last June.

They even have avid fans who call themselves "Rushers," as well as websites created in their honor.



TURVEY. Has adjusted well to working in radio.

One welcome addition to the tandem is Brad Turvey, whose face you must have seen in all those ads with Mandy Moore, and whose name has been fodder for rumors (which he denies) romantically linking him with Pops Fernandez.

At first, Brad appeared to be just another handsome face like many other *mestizos* who came before him to try their luck on the local entertainment scene. But radio soon debunked that unflattering first impression.

And, unlike many good-looking but clueless chaps from the west, the guy (his father is Australian-Scottish, his mother Chinese) is as witty and playful as Chico and Delamar.

Chemistry

The first time we heard that he was joining Chico and Delamar's show, we wondered how Brad would fit in with the pair's well-balanced chemistry. Would he talk about his insecurities the way the two hosts do? Would he be able to join in the lively, crazy repartee?

We caught him on the show recently and found that he has indeed adjusted well, dishing out as many funny one-liners as the lovable duo. He's articulate, and he doesn't possess that "I'm-a-star" aura. He has the guileless honesty which most popular radio hosts possess, and a baritone speaking voice that goes well with the medium.

We mention this because a lot of celebrities are caught up in self-indulgence. They constantly carry the persona they have created for themselves, even when they guest on radio shows.

In another radio program, for instance, an up-and-coming singer went giggly and *sosyal* even before the host started to interview her. When it was time to say goodbye, she invited listeners to buy her album and, finding the chance to say hello to a friend who was listening, she said: "Hi to my friend. She's *watching* right now!"—Nice, 'no?

Monitoring groups prompt heartening reforms on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S heartening to note that, slowly but surely, reformers' efforts are prompting (forcing?) the institution of much-needed changes on the broadcast and show biz industries.

Industry workers

Time was when industry workers thought they could do practically anything they pleased, and that members of the audience were too clueless or weak-willed to combat their excesses.

Well, they are now learning how wrong they were—the hard way. The lessons began with the suspension of some TV hosts for their crass comments. This has happened not once, but thrice so far, so industry people now realize that incensed viewers mean business.

Their complaints have forced government and private regulatory groups to finally wake up and penalize erring TV people who treat the TV screen as though it were an extension of their bedrooms, bathrooms—and kitchen garbage-disposal units!

Complaints

Even better, these groups have organized monitoring teams that watch TV all the time, not just to confirm viewers' complaints, but to discover other infractions on their own. This is what they should have been doing in the first place, but better late than later.

Other TV people are also being advised that it isn't cricket to use their shows as venues for them to air subjective, self-serving comments. Some people they've been attacking have had enough and are bent on penalizing them for behaving in such an unprofessional manner.

We trust that these and other reform initiatives will prompt (again, force?) TV executives to control the actuations of the talents under them *before* the public cries foul.

All too often, the television medium endows on-camera talents with excessive power and popularity, which goes to their unenlightened heads. They become even more powerful than their bosses, who end up deferring to their star talents' whims and caprices.

We trust that, now that the spirit of reform is sweeping through the broadcast industry, these bosses learn to finally assert themselves and lay down the law even for the "star" talents under them.

Pressure

Reforms are also being instituted in the live-performance scene, again through the pressure being put on erring show people by irate members of the audience, and by watchdog groups. For instance, sexy stage shows have been exceeding accepted limits of erotic display, so complaints have been aired that have prompted some legislators to threaten to ban such excessively sexy productions.

Heretofore sexy performers used to pooh-pooh the public's complaints against their irresponsible and cheap shows. Now that the legislators have stepped in, however, the bold dancers have been properly chastened and promise not to exceed accepted limits from here on in.

Therefore, concerned members of the audience should keep blowing the whistle on excessive conduct in the media and show biz. Their efforts are paying off and erring practitioners are being forced to behave more responsibly.

Who's your favorite 'Meteor Garden' character?

By Noelani Torre

THERE probably isn't a single person in this country who doesn't know what "Meteor Garden" is, or who its stars are.

We've even discussed it in aesthetics class. We can't really speak of it with much authority. In a bid to understand the show's appeal, we asked some avid viewers to tell us who their favorite "Meteor Garden" character is. Their responses:

Bad boy image

"Dao Ming Si. I like his bad boy image — it's more exciting. He's a stand-out, mainly because he's the wealthiest character, and also because of his temper — *mainitin talaga ang ulo niya*. It's unusual, you don't see it in other shows. He's very childlike, *isip-bata*.

"Of the four of them, even as F4, he's my favorite. *Ang yaman-yaman niya, pero gano'n ang ugali.* He's like a 'poor' rich boy."— *Karen Abellar, Kalookan City*

Streetdance

"*Ang pinakagusto kong* character *ay si* Mei Zuo. *Astig siyang maglakad — mayabang. Pero kenkoy din. Makikita mo 'yan sa* Pepsi commercial *ng* F4 — *siya yung nabuwal sa* stack *ng* Pepsi cans. *Gusto ko siya kasi siya ang pinakasanay mag-*English *sa kanilang lahat. At isa pa, nakakabilib siya pag sumasayaw. Ang galing niyang mag-*streetdance!"— *Anjolina Carmona, Bulacan*

"*Si* Xie Men! Playboy *siya na hindi naman talaga bagay. Kaya* cute *ang labas. Gusto ko rin ang* love team *nila ni* Xiao Yu.

"*Siya yung tipong mahilig sa mga* model-type girls, *tapos bigla niyang magugustuhan itong ordinaryong* girl. *At, medyo mababaw, pero ang pagkasingkit ng mga mata niya. Maganda din ang ugali niya — siya ang pinaka-*thoughtful."— *Elissa San Pedro, Isabela*

"Lei is my favorite character because he's the most realistic — if you're a guy, he's the character you can relate to.

"Not like the others who are flashier. He's just a simple guy, and his acting is more subdued. *Pero may sub*stance. *Yung iba pag mag-damit, talagang* boy band *ang dating* — really fitted shirts, shiny leather-ish pants. Lei is just a regular guy. He looks like a real college student."— *Danilo Singh, Quezon City*

Shallow guy

"I like Dao Ming because he has a strong personality. It's many-layered — in the beginning, you'd think that he's just this shallow guy *na masungit*, the kind who's always right. But later, you'll see a different side developing, especially when he's with San Chai. I also like him because he's sincere, he always says what's on his mind.

"I think we also focus more on him because

WHO/ C4

Robert Seña . . .

From page C2

Robert's classical take on that particular song.

Theater roots

As a tribute to his theater roots, Robert will feature 10 musical theater artists to help him out in the show. Most of them are singers and dancers—Andy Alviz, Jaime del Prado, Cecile Martinez, Tintin Martinez, Ariel Reonal, Ampy Sietereales, Gerard Mendoza, Roden Araneta, Myrene Hernandez and Sisa Esteva.

Robert will be backed-up by the Ugoy-Ugoy band, with Bond Samson as musical director. Rico Gutierrez directs with Jon Mendoza as scriptwriter; set design by Gino Ruiz; costumes by Raoul Ramirez and choreography by Andy Alviz and Jaime del Prado.

One of the country's best voices, Robert hopes that "Showtime" will pave the way for similar shows. He plans to introduce this type of show in bars and other performance venues. So, let us all support Robert's dream of a show! For tickets, call 721-6726 or 0917-8174364.

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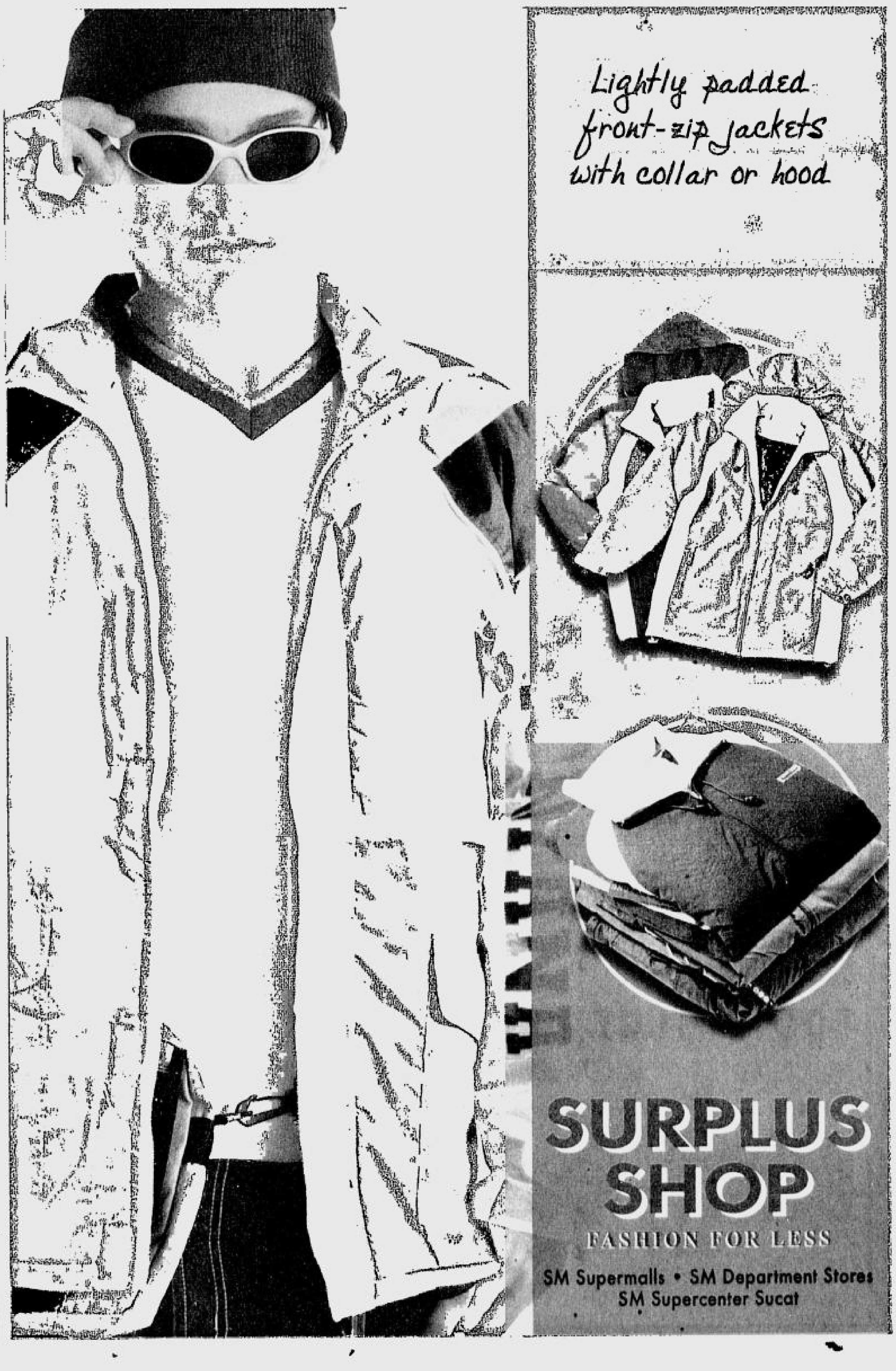

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Bad accents in films scored

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM *Lisa Marie Vales*: "I collect Meryl Streep movies in which she does accents. Please share with us other 'best' or 'worst' lists. I love trivia."

The entertainment media landscape is littered with "best" and "worst" lists—best and worst performances, best songs, greatest love songs, most memorable romantic films, even best kiss and best villains!

Fascinating lists

Among many fascinating lists we've come across is the poll conducted by Empire Magazine on accents.

Of course, Meryl Streep is the "greatest living American actress" for very good reasons. She gets glowing accolades not only because of her inherent talent, but also for the work she puts into the characters she portrays, including their accents. But even the great Streep wasn't spared in the magazine's unconventional list.

In the British film magazine's recent poll, Sean Connery was cited for "creating" the worst accent in the history of cinema, for 1987's "The Untouchables"—this despite having won an Oscar and a Golden Globe for that classic by Brian de Palma. In the film, Connery played an Irish cop, but his Scottish burr was jarring!

PITT AND ROBERTS. Criticized for inept dialogue work in some of their movies.

Artistic debacle

Other actors who figured prominently in the list were: Julia Roberts (for the artistic and box office debacle, "Mary Reilly"); Brad Pitt (for portraying an Austrian mountaineer in "Seven Years in Tibet"); Dick Van Dyke (who attempted an East London cockney accent in "Mary Poppins"); Laurence Olivier (for his Jewish accent in the 1980 remake of "The Jazz Singer"); Keanu Reeves ("Bram Stoker's Dracula") and Streep (for her work in "Out of Africa," as South African author Karen Blixen).

Among recent releases, Harrison Ford's "Russian" accent in the film, "K-19: The Widowmaker," got a lot of brickbats for its unrecognizable twang— to think Ford's mother was Russian-Jewish!

In another annual poll conducted by independent movie website Film Threat, Russell Crowe topped the website's "Coldest Person in Hollywood" list.

Mercurial temper

But, judging from stories about the actor's mercurial temper (including the infamous punch he 'bestowed' on the Bafta executive who cut off his poetic acceptance speech after winning the British Oscar's Best Actor award for "A Dangerous Mind" when he exceeded the group's time limit) —who could blame them? In fact, Hollywood pundits blame Crowe's explosive churlishness for his losing a second Academy Award statuette. According to Film Threat, Crowe is "a wild boor, whose bad-boy big mouth and Redwood-sized chip-on-the-shoulder cost him an Oscar trophy."

When we checked out past recipients of the unflattering appellation, we found out the "Gladiator" star didn't have to fret about the new "title" conferred on him, because he's in good company: Robin Williams and Freddie Prinze Jr. Runners-up this year were Winona Ryder, Cuba Gooding Jr., Robert de Niro and Woody Allen.

Chris Cooper finally gets the attention he deserves

By Nestor U. Torre

CHRIS Cooper has been acting in films since the late '80s, but we started focusing on him only in "American Beauty" (1999), in which he played the colonel who makes life miserable for everyone he interacts with, especially his teenage son.

COOPER. Specializes in playing offbeat characters.

Worth watching

That film was "owned" by Kevin Spacey, but Cooper held his own, despite his much smaller role. Here, we belatedly realized, was a character actor worth watching.

Then, in "The Bourne Identity," Cooper again came on strong as a top CIA agent bent on eliminating the character played by Matt Damon.

And, earlier this year, Cooper nearly stole "Adaptation" from lead actor Nicolas Cage. His characterization of a toothless "expert" on exotic flowers was so textured and original that it won him an Oscar for best supporting actor.

These recollections come to mind because Cooper is again winning raves for his performance in "Seabiscuit," Tobey Maguire's latest starrer, which has yet to be shown here.

Cooper is being praised for his portrayal of Tom Smith, the trainer of the famous champion thoroughbred. The 52-year-old actor was aged with white hair and wrinkles for the role, which could win him another acting citation.

Clearly, it's time to really get to know this exceptional actor, who could be playing lead roles as early as next film season. Some biographical notes:

Theater

Surprisingly, the young Chris was extremely shy—so, why did he end up in one of the world's most exhibitionistic and "shameless" professions? Because he knew he had "things to say," and the only way he could force himself to express them was to act in the theater.

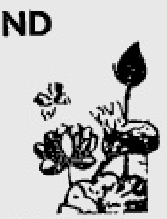
Cooper acted onstage for 15 years before the movies finally beckoned, by way of a major film role in "Matewan," a film about coal miners, where he played a union organizer.

Next came the 1989 production, "Lonesome Dove," starring Tommy Lee Jones and Robert Duvall. Cooper was cast as a sheriff who tried to

CHRIS/ C6

Voices from within

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WIFE kills husband. Husband kills wife. Wife cuts off husband's sexual organ. Husband kills wife's lover. Boyfriend hangs self over girlfriend's rejection. Newspapers carry stories like these all the time.

Relationships

When we encounter problems in relationships, we hear two "voices." One is the voice of thought and emotion stemming from the mind and false ego. False ego is our identification with material designations: "I am the wife/ husband/ girlfriend/ boyfriend of another person."

Basically, this is how the mind and false ego work:

1. "I am the true partner. I have all the rights over my spouse. This person is mine. Anyone who tries to get this person from me will suffer. If this person

VOICES/ C5

Sing-along masters need to re-think their act

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IN A country populated by excellent singers, the real acid test among sing-along bar habitués is if they can survive the jokes of some sing-along masters, whose naughtiness hurts budding performers.

They ridicule their customers, make offensive remarks, capitalize on people's shyness, poke fun at their physical imperfections, and make their guests look silly. As an observer puts it, "By the time your turn to sing comes, you feel like your dignity has been ripped off."

We checked out some bars and found that they are not meant for the onion-skinned and faint-hearted.

Case in point is this plump matron who was requested by her friends to sing a Celine Dion song.

Witty

As she was called onstage, the five sing-along masters sized her up and took turns to "feast" on her. The first "bites" were witty: "How old are you?" asked one host. "Thirty-three," she shyly replied. *"Uy, 'yan ang edad ni Kristo nung pinako siya sa Krus!* Are you single or married?"

"Single," the lady whispered. The second host butted in: "Is that by choice or by karma?" The audience roared in laughter while the lady gamely laughed. However, as the "interrogation" progressed, her smile slowly faded.

Then the sing-along masters made fun of her weight, breasts, dentures and sex life. The latter was done in bad taste because the talk became quite graphic. The woman whispered to the host to stop, to which the third host sarcastically said, "*Sige na nga, kumanta ka na at nang makaraos ka!*"

In another sing-along bar, a lanky, effeminate man tried to match the host's caustic remarks when they talked about gender-bender issues. However, what started out as a funny exchange of sound bites ended in a heated argument about religion, which is a big taboo in live performances. And if that weren't enough, the sing-along host cursed the rest of the evening.

Grilling

During the peak of the craze in the '80s and early '90s, sing-along masters like Arnel Ignacio and Ai-Ai de las Alas started this "grilling" trend in music bars like The Library.

Customers who wanted to sing were asked all sorts of questions, from demographic traits to toilet habits. The objective, of course, was to elicit laughter. There were dirty and sexy jokes, but they were tolerable.

Today, the situation has gotten worse, not only in terms of the quality of jokes, but also in the boldness with which some hosts move beyond the zones of decency. They use foul language and malicious gestures that are just a step away from sexual harassment.

Pop culture

"Laitan" has been an accepted part of our pop culture, especially in the light of the show biz *"taray"* syndrome that equates termagant ways with sophisticated urban toughness.

This is different from being *"masungit,"* since the latter has a negative connotation. Social scientists say *"laitan"* sometimes serves as a brave facade for facing tough problems in life.

When we can laugh at our imperfections, we achieve a positive outlook in life and invaluable snippets of wisdom.

The problem with the *"laitan"* in some sing-along bars is that some hosts laugh *at* instead of *with* their guest singers. Jokes are all done in the spirit of fun and the practice of berating guests shouldn't be taken seriously—but, at whose expense?

F4. Viewers like their performances for different reasons.

Who's your favorite . . .

From page C3

that's really the way they made the story — it revolves around him. He fits the stereotypical macho image, but then, he has a sensitive side *pala*.

Hardships

"He wasn't likable at the start, but you find yourself liking him eventually. His character is slowly revealed as the show goes on. In the end, he was willing to sacrifice everything and go through all sorts of hardships for another person —starve, get beaten up, etc."—*Cristina Verde, U.P. Diliman*

"Gusto ko ang nanay ni Dao Ming. Imeldific! *Maldita. Talagang aristokrata* — she's your dream *kontrabida. Maganda din siya, mas maganda pa kay* Maggie Cheung. She has this stiff upper lip you just love to hate. The other characters are too OA for me. *Siya, kung ano ang* role *niya, yun na yun. Wala nang mga* superfluous elements."—*Miguel Sandejas, Sampaloc*

"My favorite character is Lei. He's cute, and more mysterious than the others. He's artistic. You can't really predict his mood. He has that poetic air, and his mystique was established from the beginning."—*Cam-b Ongsiapco, Bulacan*

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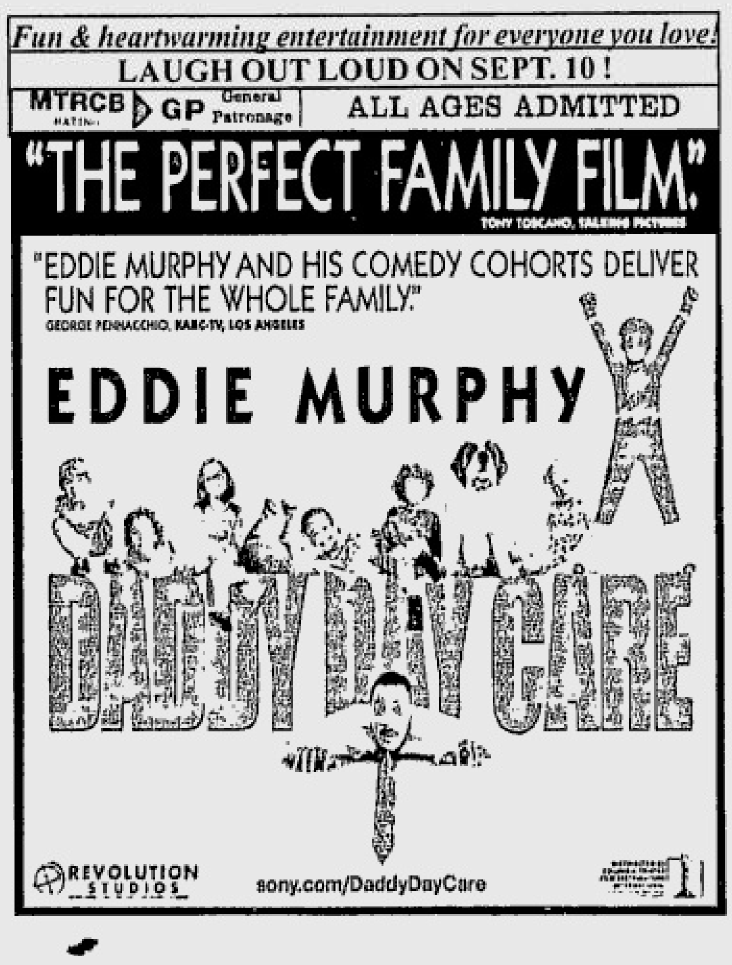

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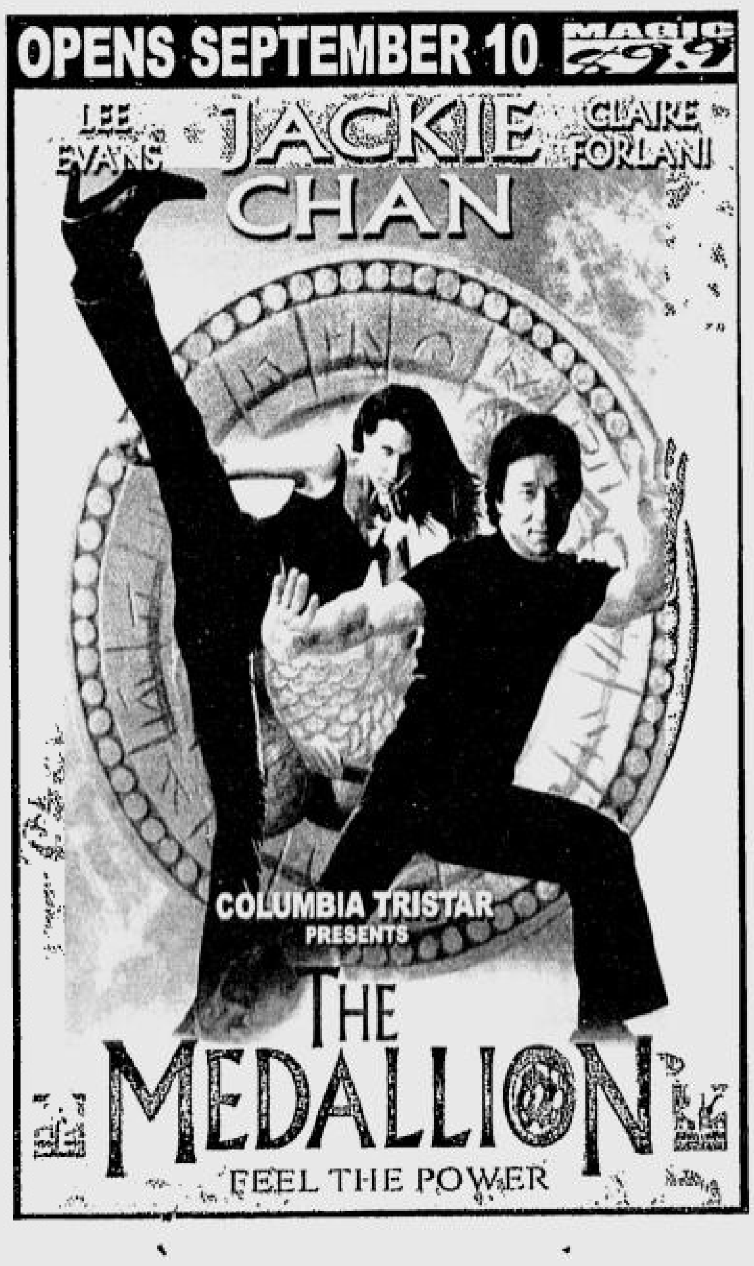

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT. 6 - SEPT. 12

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	131
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Home Along da Airport 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 FIBA's America's Qualifying Tournament 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 World Pool Championship 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup alpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Cho-Cho Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 QPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 Mission X	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Kool Ka Lang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 GSIS @ Ur Service 11:00 Sports in Focus	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 9-Ball Billiard 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Insider 11:30 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills 11:00 Kasangga Mo'ng Langit	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Phil. Pro Boxing League 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDatCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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'You have to be ready to take big steps'–Thalia

By Leo P. Udtohan

FROM the first moment the three-year-old Ariadna Sodi sang on the TV show, "Estudiantinas que Estudian," it became clear that she was destined to be a performer.

Diva and actress

Born on Aug. 26, Thalia has achieved many things as a diva and actress. She had been in the entertainment industry since she was a toddler. She had no ambition of achieving stardom—she simply wanted to be in the hearts of people.

THALIA. Will never stop singing Spanish songs.

Her memories range from "La Pobre Señorita Limantour," where Thalia made her debut in *telenovelas*, to "Rosalinda." From her eponymous album all the way to her newest collection, "Thalia '03," which Thalia describes as her best work to date.

But, the most memorable thing that happened to her was her marriage to Thomas "Tommy" Mottola on Dec. 2, 2000.

"Marriage has given me a lot of happiness and stability. It's like finding something that's missing in your life," Thalia described her life with Mottola.

This year, Thalia's star continues to shine: she won the "People's Choice Award" in Premios Los Nuestros, and topped the list of People en Español's "25 Most Beautiful."

Rival

Thalia remembers how she slugged rival Paulina Rubio onstage during a concert. Thalia says, "But that was a long time ago. Now, I'm in the same frequency with God. I believe in sending good thoughts to enemies and friends alike."

She plans has her own line of clothes, shoes and bags. She plans to cross over to the American market, but wants to be prepared for it before taking the big step.

Although her latest album is mostly in English, she says she will never stop singing Spanish songs.

Voices from within

From page C4

leaves, I shall cause a disturbance and will even consider murder."

2. "If this person leaves me, I shall make him/ her suffer just as I am suffering. Why should I suffer alone? I will look for other partners to have flings with."

3. "If my partner leaves me, there is no reason to live. I spent my whole life raising a family, building a reputation and taking care of business. What will people say? It will be shameful!"

Voice of conscience

The second voice is the voice of conscience and reason—the Lord within our hearts imparts wisdom. The Lord speaks absolute truths that apply to everyone:

1. "You are not any of the temporary material labels and designations society sticks on you. You are part and parcel of the Supreme Soul. This world is not your home; the kingdom of God is your real shelter."

2. "Other spiritual souls are children of God —you do not own them. They are not your possessions. They only play a temporary role—a husband, a parent, etc. These roles are positions of responsibility that are meant to help bring people closer to the Supreme Lord. The reality is, a life built on the suffering of others will never end in true happiness."

3. "Real love comes from a person connected with the source of happiness and love—the Supreme Lord. Do not expect love and happiness from someone who is lost. When you experience love from the Supreme Being, you can share this love with others."

Purpose of life

4. "The Supreme Lord takes care of those who take shelter in Him. The purpose of life is not to build a temporary home surrounded by relatives and possessions.

"We should understand our spiritual nature. Even if we are considered failures, if God is pleased with us, that in itself is a great measure of success.

"Don't be concerned with gossip."

5. "We cannot find enlightenment and peace if we follow the dictates of the mind and false ego. We should accept the Absolute Truth as our guide. It only appears difficult in the beginning, but the end result is true happiness and contentment of the heart."

6. "Do not throw your life away just because an immature person has hurt you. Rather, place your heart in the hands of the Supreme Person. There is no hurt or pain in the shelter of His unconditional love."

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- MYRA PALOS ORPIANO *(Bataan) - LUZON*
- ERLINDA LOPEZ PASTRANO *(Agusan del Sur) - VIZMIN*

TRIP for 4 to BORACAY
- LICERIA A. TE *(Pasay) - GMA*
- SHIRLEY T. ILLOSO *(Pampanga) - LUZON*
- ANGELICA JOYCE R. SYLEE *(Cagayan de Oro) - VIZMIN*

TRIP for 4 to PALAWAN
- HECTOR ENRIQUEZ JULIANO *(Muntinlupa) - GMA*
- DORCAS DELLOSA TADIOSA *(Lucena) - LUZON*
- ALMA MARIE L. GUEVARRA *(Cebu) - VIZMIN*

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- FLORENCE COMPETENTE *(Marikina) - GMA*
- FELECITAS ESCANDOR *(Pangasinan) - LUZON*
- LUZVIMINDA BACALSO *(Cagayan de Oro) - VIZMIN*

Jollibee Gift Checks
- CRESENCIA F. TOK *(Caloocan) - GMA*
- EMMA A. PANIS *(Navotas) - GMA*
- ARLENE G. VILLEGAS *(Laguna) - LUZON*
- MARIAM AMPATUA *(Bacolod) - VIZMIN*

The grand draw winners were drawn last Aug. 31, 2003 on SOP under the supervision of BFAD & Wyeth representatives.
Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes.

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WEEK 2	Maria Victoria Lacaba (QC) Agnes Nicolas (Rizal)	Rhodora B. Arias (San Pablo) Karene Bojos (Cagayan de Oro)	Rowena Bruna (Cavite) Melanie Alipio (QC)	Almira Ramirez (Ilocos Sur) Rosalinda Silva (Cebu)
WEEK 3	Hernalene T. Huy (Cavite) Lucila R. Paule (Cavite)	Anita Sunga (Pampanga) Ma. Nova Villa Strong (Gen. Santos City)	May Dedase (Antipolo City) Rebecca Rosolada (Makati)	Perlita E. Santos (Bulacan) Gina Alamada Lumawan (Maguindanao)
WEEK 4	Ma. Luisa Anul (Cavite) Hyacinth Amion (Laguna)	Wilma D. Bolivar (Camarines Sur) Jovelyn Amable (Bacolod City)	Anna Marie N. Santiago (QC) Dorothy Andres (Pasay)	Pricila Villanueva (Batangas) Raquel Contingco (Paranaque)
WEEK 5	Ma. Fe Manipol (QC) Ma. Raquel Amparo (Laguna)	Imelda Francisco (Camarines Norte) Ursulina Entrina (Cebu)	Espie Silva (Muntinlupa) Liway Presco (Caloocan)	Lilibeth G. Garcia (Pangasinan) Divina Castillejos (Cagayan de Oro)
WEEK 6	Genevieve Jestre (Cavite) Josephine S. Herras (Taguig)	Maylanie J. Corpuz (Angeles City) Meraflor Durango (Gen. Santos City)	Analyn D. Mercado (Cavite) Jovelyn Rodulfo (Novaliches)	Marilou B. Pitogo (Camarines Sur) Jed Condino (Iloilo)
WEEK 7	Helen Grace Leonor (Marikina) Marie Grace B. Dieta (Makati)	Gemma De Guzman (Bulacan) Ying Ying Luberia (Tacloban City)	Gertrudes Q. Martin (Antipolo) Marcelina Tychico (Rizal)	Mary Antonette Pardo (Naga City) Marilou Tan (Cagayan De Oro)
WEEK 8	Marcela M. Delen (Batangas) Josephine M. Campos (Sta. Cruz)	Abby Brown (Subic) Erlinda Pastrano (Agusan Del Sur)	Catherine Sanorjo (Laguna) Danna Lyn Porbulan (QC)	Maria Ramos (Pasay) Rowena A. Fabria (Misamis Oriental)
WEEK 9	Espie A. Silva (Muntinlupa) Rowena S. Soliman (Pasig)	Diana Tayag (Pampanga) Christine T. Yabo (Cebu)	Myrna Azarcon (Antipolo) Herminia Giman (Batangas)	Lalaine Baratang (Tarlac) Monodato Boco (Iligan)
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WEEK 11	Angelina N. Pasia (Muntinlupa) Florita Mendez (Rizal)	Ybethe Castillo (Laguna) Josefina Lariosa (Mandaue City)	Karine Noveno (Mandaluyong) Hyacynth M. Tolentino (Rizal)	Leonora C. Marquez (Angeles) Mechille De La Cruz (Iloilo)

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Quirky, winsome performances mask plot deficiencies in 'Pirates'

By Noelani Torre

GEOFFREY Rush (second from left) plays Captain Barbossa in Gore Verbinski's hit swashbuckler.

"YOU'D better start believing in ghost stories," says the pirate captain to the winsome governor's daughter. "You're in one!" As a description of "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," that line, spoken by Geoffrey Rush's Captain Barbossa to Keira Knightley's Elizabeth Swann, isn't exactly accurate.

Zombies

You'll find nary a ghost in "Pirates," what you'll get — and in abundance, too — are, well, pirates, of course. Mind you, some of them are dead, but not in the usual sense — they're zombies! And they're not ghostly zombies, either. They're the sword-parrying kind who look normal — that is, until moonlight hits them and they turn into talking, rotting cadavers!

This swashbuckler of a movie, though aiming at box office success, isn't something you'd expect to achieve its goal. After all, which pirate movie do you remember scoring big at the box office? We can't even recall the last pirate movie we watched.

Theme park ride

Plus, there's the fact that the movie is based on a theme park ride at Disneyland, something which edges dangerously close to campiness. "Pirates" has had the last word, however — last time we checked, it has scored more than "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" at the tills.

We can understand why it has become such a success. Directed by Gore Verbinski (of "The Ring" and "Mouse Run" fame), "Pirates" is an adventure movie that manages to deliver the goods — and able performances by a solid cast mask the plot deficiencies.

The movie's best performer is Johnny Depp as Capt. Jack Sparrow —a wonderfully loopy performance! Without him, we don't think we would have enjoyed the movie half as much. Decked out in mascara, gold teeth, and roguish pirate wear, Depp is a sight to behold as the audacious — and unemployed — Sparrow. (He says he modeled himself on the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards.)

He gets the best lines, and his drunkenly insouciant delivery makes them the film's best punchlines.

This performance confirms our belief in his talent, and his trademark versatility.

Suitably malevolent

Another talented actor playing a pirate captain is Geoffrey Rush, who does Captain Barbossa, the captain of the Black Pearl, and Sparrow's former first-mate (guess how he became the captain). He isn't as eye-catching as Depp (except when he's in rotting cadaver mode), and isn't as intense, but his more subdued performance is nevertheless suitably malevolent.

The two younger members of the cast — Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley — are well-cast in their respective roles of young hero and heroine, but we must say that they pale in comparison with the spicier pirate captains.

Bloom, who made many a female heart flutter as Legolas in "Lord of the Rings," doesn't have much to delve into here as the young blacksmith in love with the governor's daughter. Still, though his role requires him to do nothing more than to act — and look — dashing, he is appealing and sympathetic.

Pretty

It's Knightley who doesn't exactly catch fire. She's certainly pretty, but her performance lacks charm. It's a little difficult sometimes to pay attention to her even though she's a part of a scene.

For all her physical appeal, she tends to fade into the woodwork, so to speak, when the others — especially Depp — share the scene. But we did like the bit about corsets, if only for its jab against fashion.

The movie's worst points are its length — 140 minutes—and its tedious sword-fight scenes. It has too many climaxes, and after a while your adrenalin just doesn't go pumping anymore.

A good way to shorten it would have been to edit out some of those swordfights. They just seemed to go on and on, especially when the ones they were fighting were the zombie pirates, who couldn't die anyway. Duh.

Still, "Pirates" is an enjoyable movie, and though not as thrilling as the ride it was named after, it has enough kicks in it to keep you interested. Just don't think too much while you're watching it.

Chris Cooper finally gets . . .

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track down a murderer.

Cooper's performance was characteristically textured, but the film wasn't seen by many people, so he had to wait more than five years before Hollywood remembered that it had a gem of a character actor in him.

Sheriff role

That's when he was cast in "Lone Star," where he played another sheriff role. This time, he investigated a very old murder.

Then came the big success that was "American Beauty," and Cooper was finally on his way, as Hollywood's latest "overnight" discovery—who had in fact waited more than 10 years for the film capital's bitch goddess to finally smile at him!

But it was "Adaptation" that "made" Cooper a certified acting find, in the same league as Geoffrey Rush, Michael Gambon and other late bloomers on the silver screen.

The Oscar he got for his idiosyncratic performance in that movie was just the icing on the cake that was film buffs' collective realization that they had been ignoring this superlative actor too long—for *their* own good.

When "Seabiscuit" is shown here soonest, let's make sure that we give Cooper's performance the attention it deserves.

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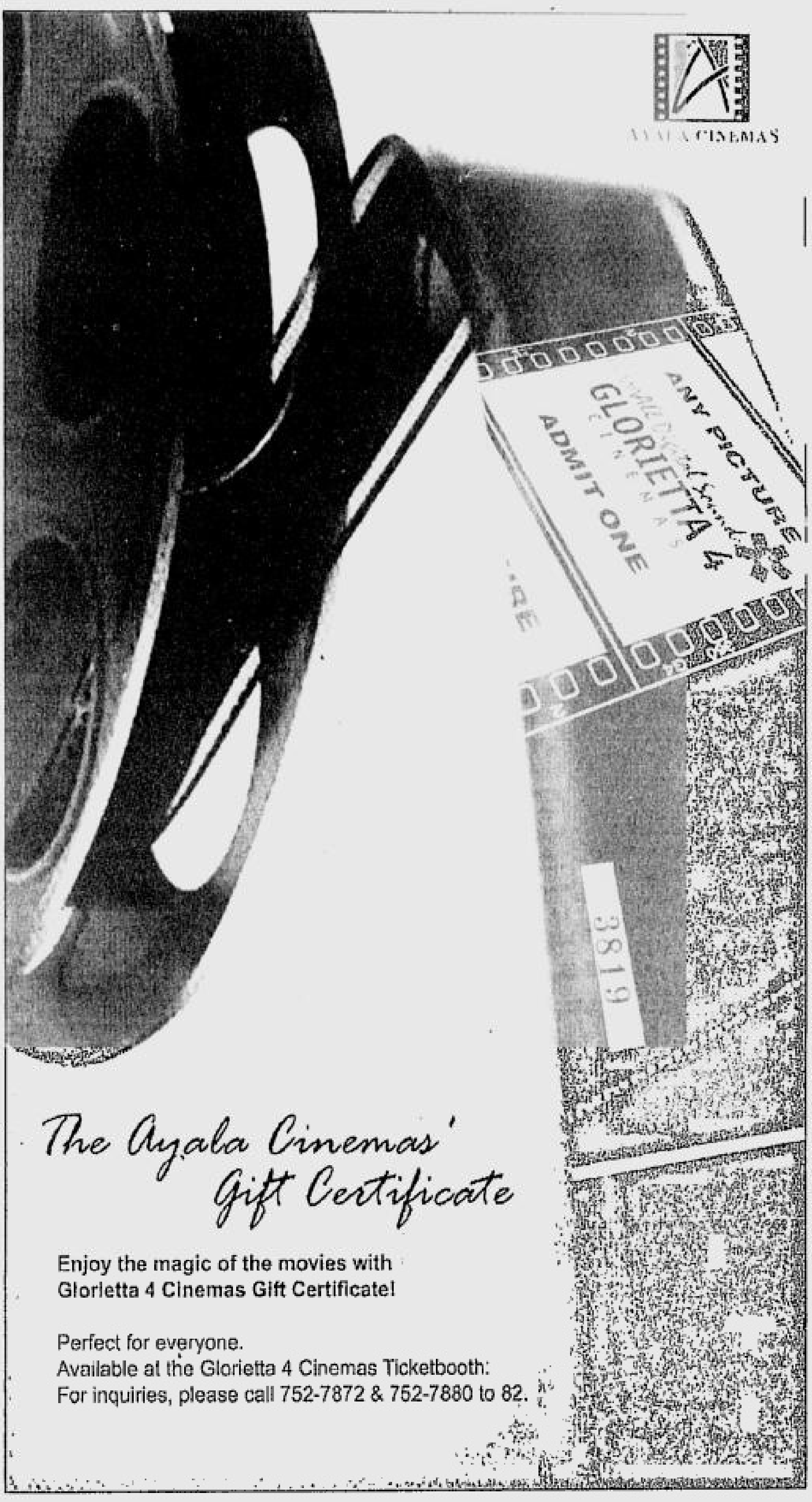

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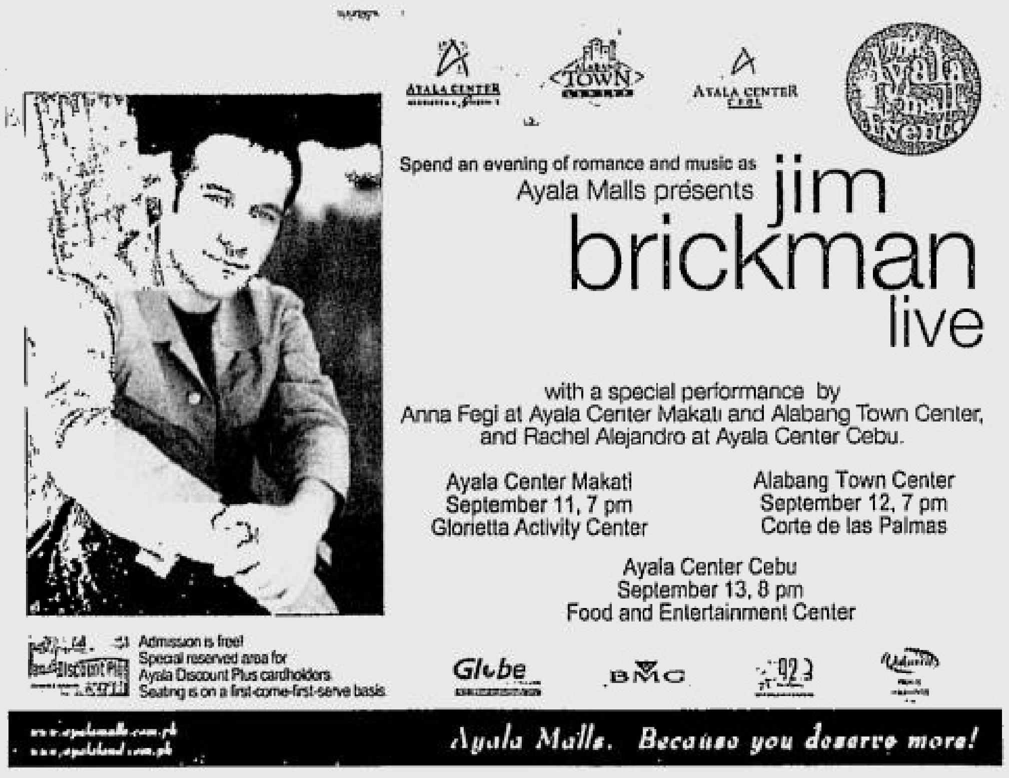

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10:50	10:15	11:35
1:00	12:30	1:40
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5:20	5:00	5:50
7:30	7:15	7:55
9:50	9:40	10:00

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Mikee goes beyond usual fripperies in 'All About You'

By Nestor U. Torre

INITIALLY, we saw Mikee Cojuangco's being tapped to be the third "society" host of GMA-7's Sunday-morning magazine show, "All About You," as just one of those things. Dawn Zulueta was ending her season as host of the show, Mikee was a good choice to replace her, and that was that.

Social cachet

However, as we viewed the show recently, we realized that Mikee was bringing much more than just her social cachet to the program. Her discipline and courage as a champion equestrienne and her genuine desire to help improve her viewers' lives shone through.

Thus, Mikee's presence on the show has automatically changed its focus and thrust in a significant way. The program still touches on topics and features "for the ladies," but they have taken on a more practical, less escapist bent.

Take the show's recent exercise feature with Jackielou Blanco. Instead of demonstrating exercises with fancy gym equipment, the portion made use of props that can be found in any home.

Workout regimen

As a result, the feature made it easy for viewers to decide to observe a regular workout regimen, because no extra expense and travel were involved.

Another indicative portion was the one that had Mikee talking to Donita Rose about her life as a married woman, her work in Singapore, etc. Rather than focusing on the glamorous aspects of Donita's life, the portion dwelt on more human and personal elements, so viewers got to know Donita, not as a star, but as a giving and caring individual.

Mikee's conversation with Donita was particularly choice and inspiring because they were well-matched on point of insightful understanding. They had both learned a lot about life, and were generous in sharing their insights with viewers.

COJUANGCO. Her presence on the show has changed its focus and thrust in a significant way.

It was a relief to hear them talking, not about trends, labels and brands, but about being true to oneself, being generous, living for others, caring about the truly important things in life, etc.

Less flighty approach

We trust that viewers appreciated this less flighty approach, and were inspired to similarly refocus their own lives on elements that really matter.

It would be great if, after Mikee's season, the show could tap either Jackielou or Donita to host its fourth season. Like Mikee, they have gone beyond the usual fripperies that make TV shows for women so predictably limited and limiting, so they could build on what she has started.

Gary V excited over children's Christmas project

By Jocelyn Valle

GARY Valenciano is always a joy to watch onstage. In his current concert series at the Music Museum (last performance is tonight at 9), he performs his well-loved hits alongside current chartbusters, like Vanessa Carlton's "A Thousand Miles," and old favorites (Temptations' "My Girl," Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed").

Refreshing fashion

Each number has been given a new arrangement by musical director Mon Faustino and the songs are performed by Gary, the Powerplay and Ugoy-Ugoy bands in such a refreshing fashion that it feels like you're hearing these tunes for the first time.

GARY V. May go into animation.

Not surprisingly, the audience rewards Gary and his musicians with lively rounds of applausé. Mr. Pure Energy just loves to perform and share his music.

Last June, Gary, as UNICEF's Ambassador of Goodwill for the Philippines, traveled to the Mountain Province for a four-day mission and sang for the people of Banaue, Bontoc, Sagada, Bauko and Tadian. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

He's also testing the international market. "I'm trying to get into animation," says Gary.

Aural interpretation

He is working on an aural interpretation of "A Cosmic Christmas," a fictional Christian story about what may have happened before God gave the Angel Gabriel the order to go to Mary.

The story is written by Max Lucado, and is part of the book, "Stories of the Extreme Teen's Heart," available at the The Master's Library.

When he met Andrea Romano (Warner Brothers' voice director for animation) on his recent trip to the US, he brought up the idea.

Romano is currently involved in the new TV series, "Teen Titans." Her husband is the lead cartoonist of another animated series, "Teamo Supremo."

Romano told Gary that they were thinking of a Christmas project. "They wanted me to write the music, and maybe score it. Using my voice in the recording is another possibility."

Different characters

When Gary starts talking about "A Cosmic Christmas," he gets totally animated, and assumes the different characters (God, Gabriel and Satan) in the story.

"Doing voices is difficult," he sighs. "God's voice and Gabriel's voice are almost the same, so I do some whispering sometimes. The story is told from the point of view of Gabriel."

Spicy noodles for rainy days

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—My in-laws, architect Toti and Maribel Mendoza, came to visit at a time when this part of Canada is at its best—the flowers are in full bloom and the weather is warm.

Trout farm

Last week, we visited a trout farm where we fished with the kids. Everyone went home with a catch. After cleaning the fish, we steamed some in Chinese sauce.

We spend our days enjoying the beautiful sights or preparing nice, sumptuous meals, like one dish that my father-in-law constantly craves for—Vietnamese Pho!

I took my family to Richmond to test a Vietnamese restaurant named Pho Cao Van. This was where I first tried a noodle soup dish that my brother-in-law Jay ordered. It is a piping-hot, spicy soup with vermicelli noodles.

This time around,I introduced it to another foodie. Bun Bo Hue is a spicy Vietnamese noodle soup. It has thinly cut slices of beef and pork and some pork knuckles.

Tasty broth

From the ingredients, you will understand why the broth is so tasty. The soup is slightly red because of the chili. And the spicy version is particularly delicious! It is perfect for rainy days or winter. It clears stuffy sinuses.

There are other dishes here that are popular: The specialty beef noodle soup is excellent. After the spicy dish, they serve a nice Vietnamese *halo-halo* topped with crushed ice to remove the "*suya*." Perfect!

Since my in-laws got here, we have visited Pho Cao Van thrice. New York-based Jon Jon and Carla Lanuza and Caloy and Charina Mendoza also loved this great, inexpensive dining place. They enjoyed the spicy noodle dish.

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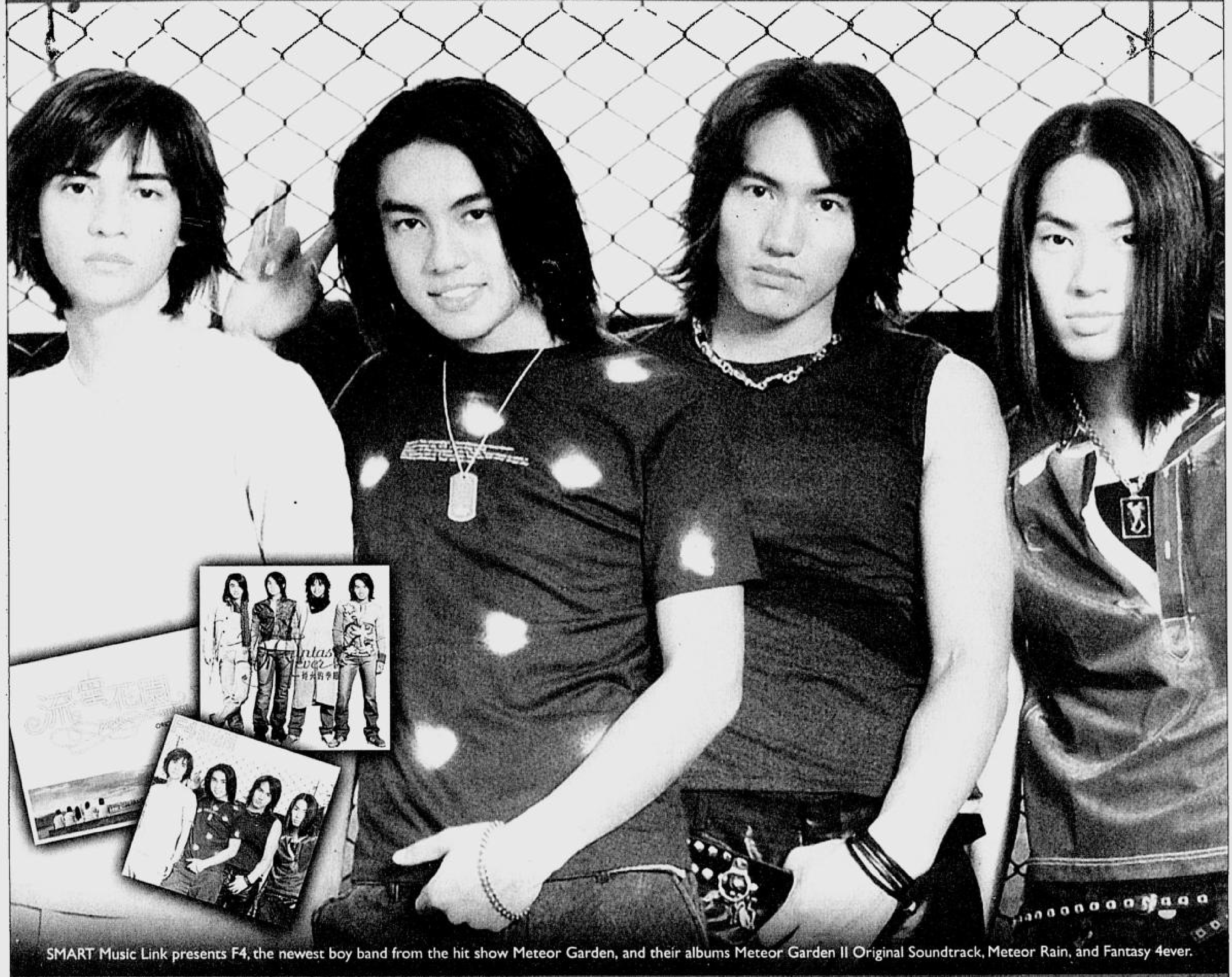

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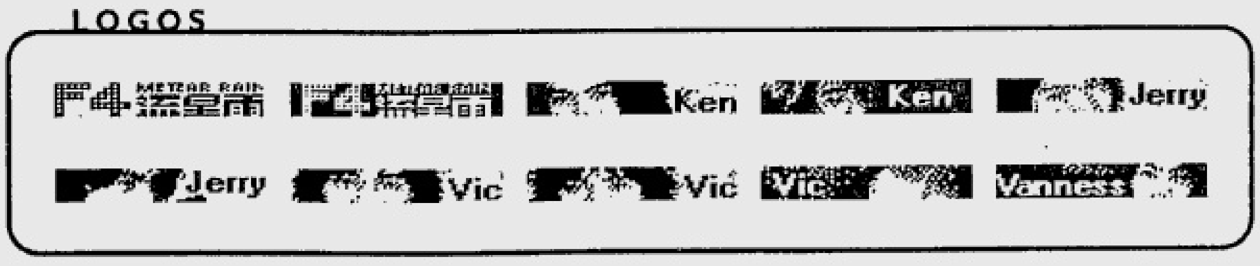

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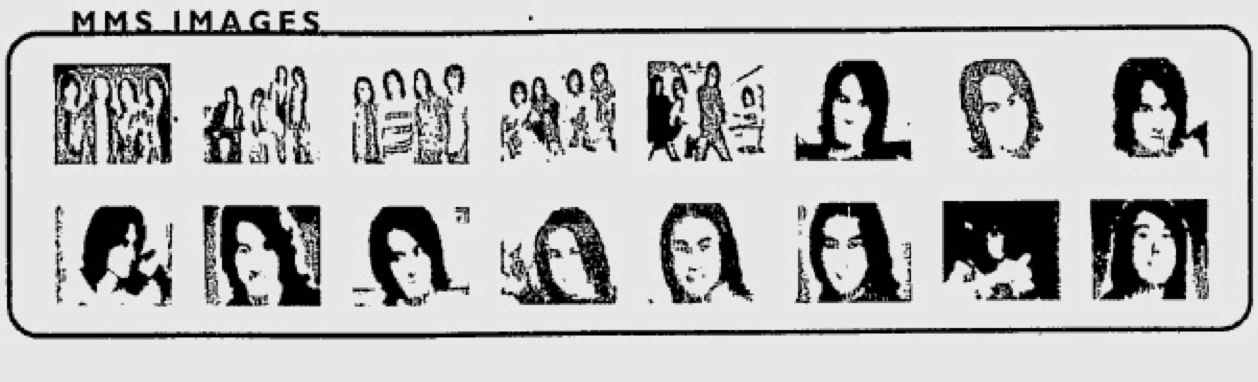

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SATURDAY Special

HARTNETT (LEFT) AND FARRELL. Share lead billing with mature stars.

Hartnett, Farrell star in new action thrillers

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME film buffs continue to patronize the movies of such mature stars as Sean Connery, Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, but others have shifted their allegiance to exciting young comers like Josh Hartnett and Colin Farrell. Luckily for them, these two film hunks have new starrers about to be shown in town.

Film capital

Josh Hartnett co-stars with Harrison Ford in "Hollywood Homicide," an action-thriller that casts them as cops in the world's film capital. It's no surprise, therefore, when Hartnett's character reveals to his older partner that he'd rather be a movie actor than a policeman!

Hartnett's character is also a yoga instructor, which accounts for his cool and spiritual outlook and behavior. Often, though, the women in his class get in the way of his "spirituality."

When Hartnett isn't teaching yoga or trying to make it as an actor, he and Ford try to crack a murder case involving Hollywood luminaries. It's a complex, dangerous case that requires their full attention, which is why Ford is ticked off when Hartnett is less than totally focused, and is distracted by his other, more glamorous and exotic interests.

Sycophants

While shooting "Hollywood Homicide," Hartnett was thrilled to discover that he and Ford had a lot in common: they both hate sycophants, the Hollywood celebrity and party scene, the publicity machine, and the trivial trappings of fame.

They also choose the roles they play very carefully, and reject even big parts if they aren't challenging or well-written. Thus, after he became a star via "Pearl Harbor," Hartnett turned down the title role in "Superman," a part that could have taken him to the next level of stardom.

For his part, Colin Farrell is also sharing lead billing with a mature star in his new

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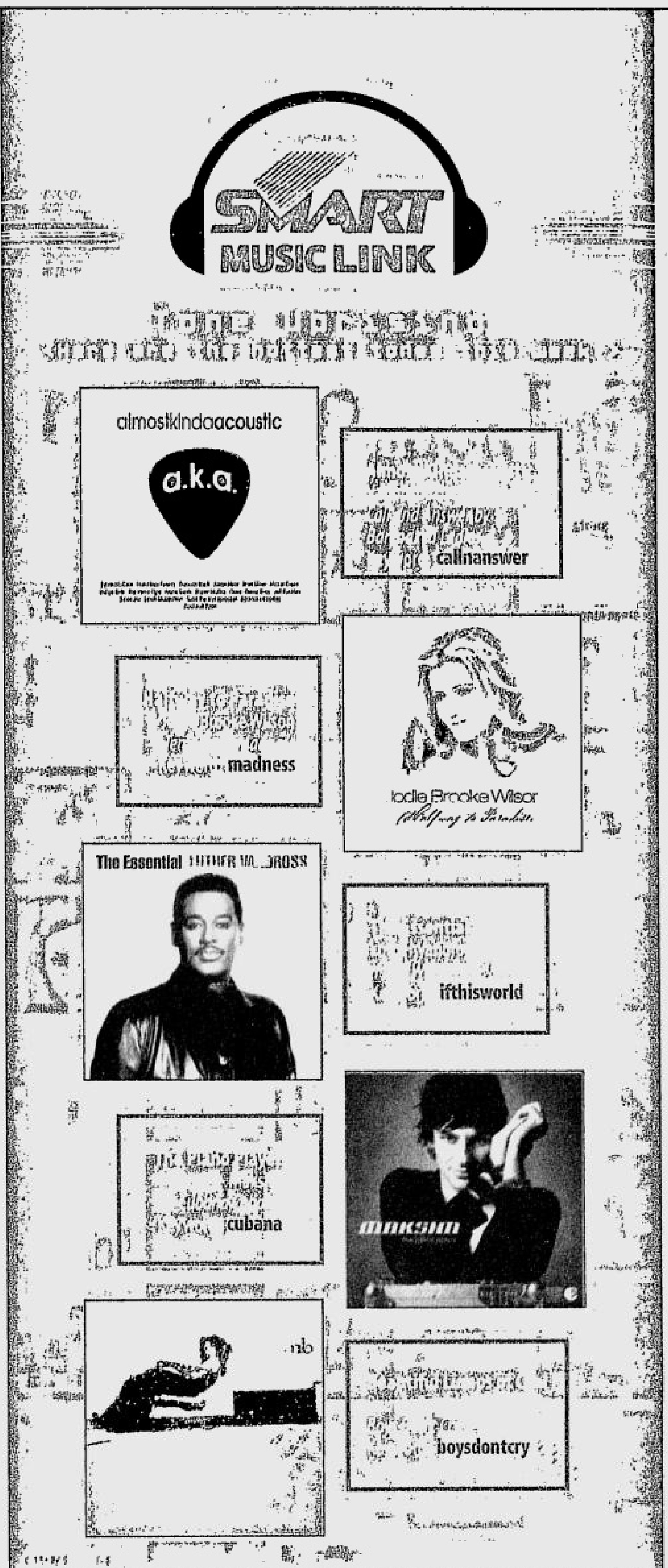

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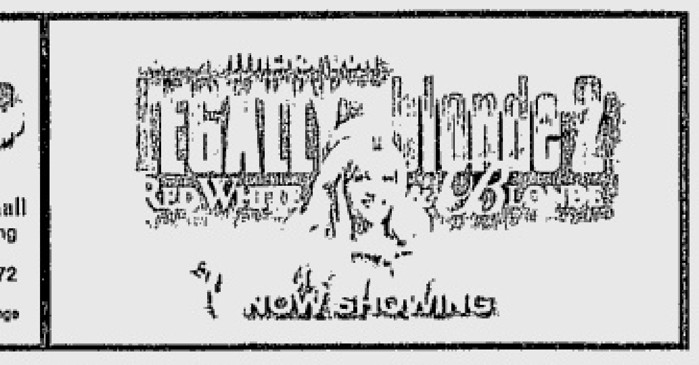

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Indie TV outfit co-produces 'Daisy Siete' with GMA-7

SEXBOMB GIRLS. Appearing in a TV series was the next logical step.

By Andy P. Bais

WHEN Focus Entertainment, Inc., inked a co-production deal with GMA-7 for its latest afternoon show "Daisy Siete," the new outfit proved that independent producers can penetrate the domain of a ginat TV network.

Drama-comedy series

"Daisy Siete," a drama-comedy series aired after "Eat Bulaga" from Monday to Friday, has the popular Sexbomb Girls as headliners. It deals with friendship and touches on problems and conflicts involving the girls—all 17 of them, thus the series title.

The show was born out of the girls' stunning rise to fame. Barely three years in the business, they have already recorded albums, starred in a movie and have endorsed various products.

Joy Cancio, their manager and Focus Entertainment's founder, thought that appearing in a TV series was the next logical step.

Problem was, the group had no experience in TV production. Armed with the determination to launch the Sexbomb Girls into the world of acting, the new production outfit decided to start taping the show on its own.

"We taped without a contract from a TV network, and with no guarantee for airtime. But of course, GMA-7 was our priority," says Pat Perez, the show's director and Focus Entertainment producer.

First episode

The group met with GMA executives to pitch the project. Luckily, the group did not have to submit "Daisy Siete's" first episode to get GMA's approval— the MTV-style five-minute trailer was good enough to pass muster.

"The network also appreciated the fact that we went ahead with the project. We proved that, even if we were independent producers, we could meet the network's standards for quality programming," Pat relates.

It hasn't been easy. "We had to use our connections to save on expenses. *Nakiusap kami sa mga kaibigan para makahingi ng* friendly terms *sa kanilang* fees," Pat adds.

"To speed up tapings, we had the newcomers in the cast take workshops handled by professional trainers before the production started."

As director, how does Pat rate the girls' performances? "They amaze me. *Halos lahat sa kanila, may* acting potential," she gushes.

Pat continues: "I don't over rehearse them. I just block them, go through their lines and rehearse with them once. It was a breeze working with them.

"*Ang maganda*, we have creative control of the material, with the network's approval, " Pat beams.

"Daisy Siete" has Edith Asuncion as head writer. Gina Alajar, Amy Austria and Joonee Gamboa are also in the cast.

Hartnett and Farrell

From page D1

starrer, "S.W.A.T.," which is currently playing in town. Farrell's senior co-star is Samuel L. Jackson, who is cast as a top cop assigned to recruit and train five exceptional officers for a new S.W.A.T. unit.

Something special

At first, it doesn't look like Farrell's character can qualify to be on Jackson's team, because a controversial incident has caused him to get demoted to a desk job. But Jackson sees something special in the troubled young man, so he gives Farrell a chance to redeem himself.

The new team is quickly thrown into action when a notorious drug lord offers a $100 M reward to anyone who can free him from police custody. So, the S.W.A.T. team escorting the drug lord to the Feds has its hands full fending off all of the underworld characters who are after that huge reward.

Farrell's first US film was Joel Schumacher's "Tigerland." It was followed by "American Outlaws," and the young actor hasn't stopped working since.

His major claim to fame is the fact that his last five starrers have all opened at the top of the US box office—"Daredevil," "The Recruit," "Minority Report," "Phone Booth," and now "S.W.A.T." That's a rare achievement that has prompted producers to make a beeline for his services, in the fond hope that Farrell's box-office "magic" will also work wonders for their productions!

Catch up on your child's growth

When your 4-year old starts his pre-school, you can expect rapid development in many of his skills. Being with his classmates makes him more excited, more playful, obviously hyperactive. This newfound busy-ness makes everything else less important, even his regular meals! Eating is now a discovery of chips and sweets! While your child is living in the fast lane of school life, one aspect seems to be in slow motion -- his weight gain! The numbers on his weighing scale have not moved for more than a couple of months!

Before you panic, here are some facts to help you catch up on what you need to know about your child's growth.

GROWTH FALTERING

- Alternatively called Stunted Growth, it is when a child's growth slows down so his weight and height fall below normal for his age
- Some children, ages 1 year to 10 years old, experience GROWTH FALTERING
- Studies say 50% of children below five years old may experience GROWTH FALTERING

WHAT CAUSES GROWTH FALTERING

- **The child is a picky eater** - does he leave out the veggies? Doesn't he eat anything but fried chicken?
- **The child skips healthy meals** - does he snack too often or at the wrong time, it dulls his appetite for real meals?
- **The child has no appetite due to illness**

All these result to a child's lack of essential nutrients his body needs to grow at a rate appropriate to his age. Deficiencies in vitamins and minerals also account for the noticeable lag in a child's growth.

CATCH-UP GROWTH IS THE KEY

Catch-up growth is to enable your child to grow in height and weight faster than usual, especially after experiencing growth faltering. **Catch-up growth** therefore helps your child achieve the physical growth normal for his age. To do this is the key since some children fail to gain weight or grow in height with normal feeding. So crucial is **Catch-up growth**, pediatricians recommend **Pediasure** to support every parent's effort to succeed in nurturing their children's growth.

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Pediasure is a complete and balanced nutritional supplement formulated for the growing years of children aged 1 to 10. **Pediasure** is clinically-proven to provide the child's body with essential nutrients for growth as well as immunity that can reduce sick days.

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- Undernourished children were observed to achieve 4.3 cm growth in length in just 8 weeks which normal feeding achieves in 12 weeks
- 3.2 kg weight gain in 8 weeks which normal feeding does in 32 weeks

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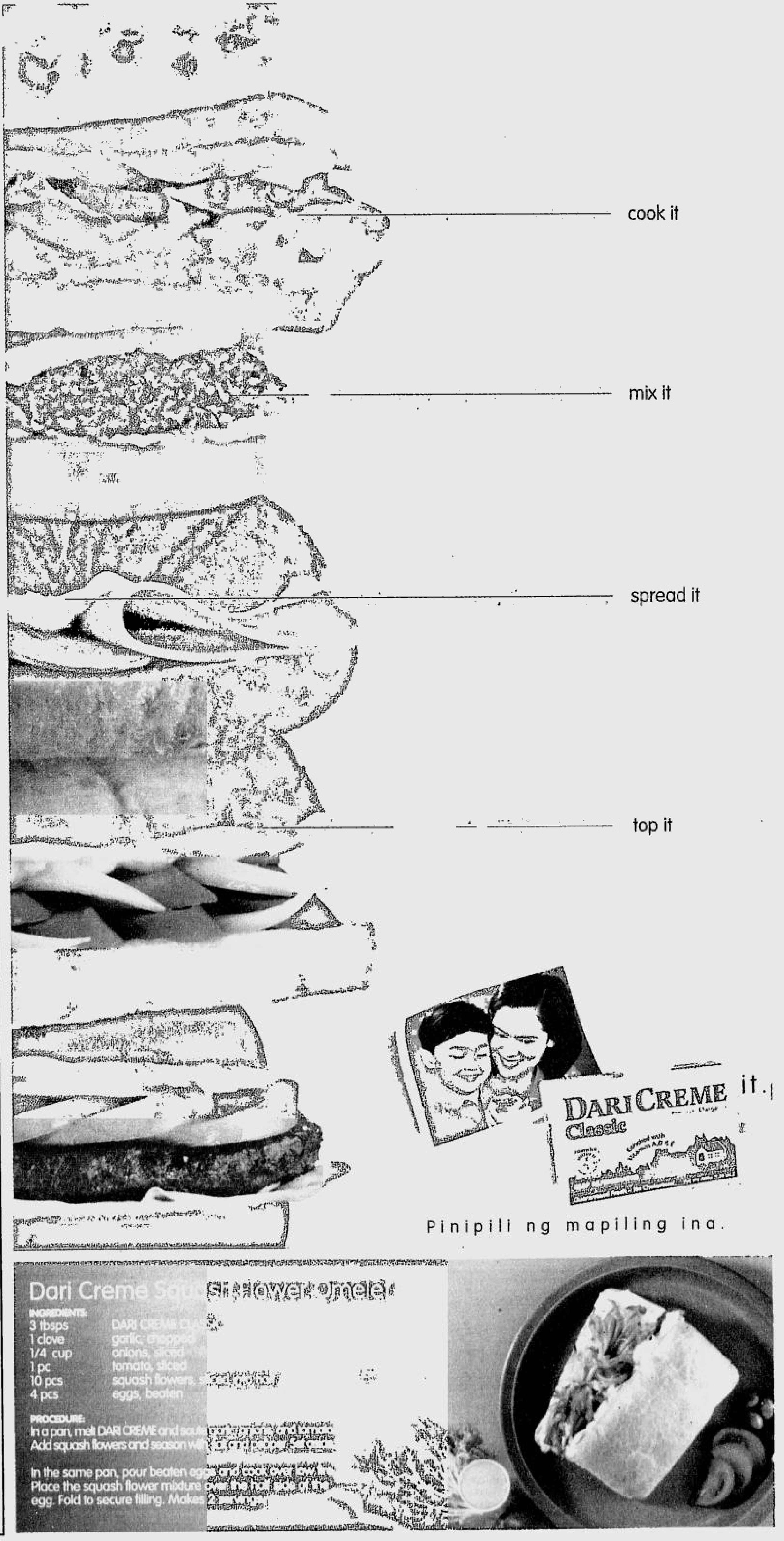

Pinipili ng mapiling ina.

Dari Creme Squash flower omele

INGREDIENTS:

3 tbsps	DARI CREME CLA
1 clove	garlic, chopped
1/4 cup	onions, sliced
1 pc	tomato, sliced
10 pcs	squash flowers, [illegible]
4 pcs	eggs, beaten

PROCEDURE:

In a pan, melt DARI CREME and saute [illegible]
Add squash flowers and season with [illegible]

In the same pan, pour beaten egg [illegible]
Place the squash flower mixture [illegible]
egg. Fold to secure filling. Makes 2 [illegible]

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SATURDAY Special

Kidman, Hopkins lauded at Venice filmfest

By Denis Barnett

VENICE, Italy—Strong performances from Nicole Kidman and Anthony Hopkins in a movie about racism have set the Venice film festival abuzz.

Bigotry

Robert Benton's "The Human Stain" is the story of a light-skinned black man, Coleman Silk, who successfully passes himself off as white to escape bigotry in deeply segregated 1940s America.

The choice of obliterating his black origins comes back to haunt Silk in later years when, as an eminent academic, he falls foul of college authorities after innocently using a racist epithet.

Silk loses his job and his wife, before embarking on a rejuvenative but ultimately disastrous affair with an abused woman half his age, searingly played by Kidman.

Critics applauded the film at a preview, and Hopkins himself received an ovation when he arrived for a press conference here, at which he professed his personal disdain for political correctness, one of the movie's themes.

Sensitivity

The Welsh actor, who uses the full range of his sensitivity and rage in the movie, said he was helped in a complex role by Nick Meyer's script.

"It's a very good script. If you have a good script, work goes relatively easily," he says.

"I don't know how one judges a script, whether it is good or not—it's an instinct, an intuition, a feeling." Benton said Hopkins had used "staggering amounts of energy in probably one of the most complex parts" in any film he's directed, and marvelled at "the risks he took to play this role."

Tribute

The Oscar-winning director of "Kramer vs. Kramer" also paid tribute to Kidman, who was a little-known Australian actress when he directed her in "Billy Bathgate," for which she received her first Golden Globe nomination.

"Not only is she a great actress but a great source of strength. Whatever you want, she will do it. She will take extraordinary risks," he said. "I think she has grown as an artist."

Kidman pulled out of the Venice festival earlier in the week, citing work commitments in the United States.

Hopkins modestly dismissed his own performance: "I just had to keep it as simple as possible, learn my lines, and turn up to do it." *AFP*

KIDMAN. Takes extraordinary risks.

"SPY KIDS 3-D." New wrinkle on an old invention.

3-D movies make a big comeback

By Nestor U. Torre

MOVIE producers are constantly trying to come up with something new to excite viewers. This film season, one of the most appealing "innovations" turns out to be a new wrinkle on a really old invention, the 3-D filmmaking and viewing process.

Stereoscopic glasses

In the 1950s, 3-D movies became popular, with literally in-your-face horror productions like "Creature from the Black Lagoon" filling moviehouses with patrons sporting the stereoscopic glasses needed to make those movies a truly eye-popping viewing experience.

More than 40 years later, the movie fad is now being dusted off with the 3-D treatment that's been given to "Spy Kids 3," the latest and final installment in the adolescent film franchise about the adventures and misadventures of two young crimebusters.

Then, as now, the 3-D process is based on the principle of stereoscopic vision—meaning, our left eye and our right eye see the world from slightly different angles. When we look at an object, our brain fuses the two images into one, allowing us to understand depth and distance, and making the composite image three-dimensional.

Filmmaking process

The 3-D filmmaking process heightens this effect. By creating a motion picture camera with two different lenses about the same distance apart as human eyes, early 3-D filmmakers were able to capture two images simultaneously.

The problem was, during projection, the effect was as if the audience was seeing double. This was solved by creating "anaglyphic" glasses, with one red and blue lens. When a person wears anaglyphic glasses, each lens filters out the opposing image, and the brain then fuses the two.

The result is the singular sensation that you're experiencing the film in three dimensions. This effect

3-D/ E3

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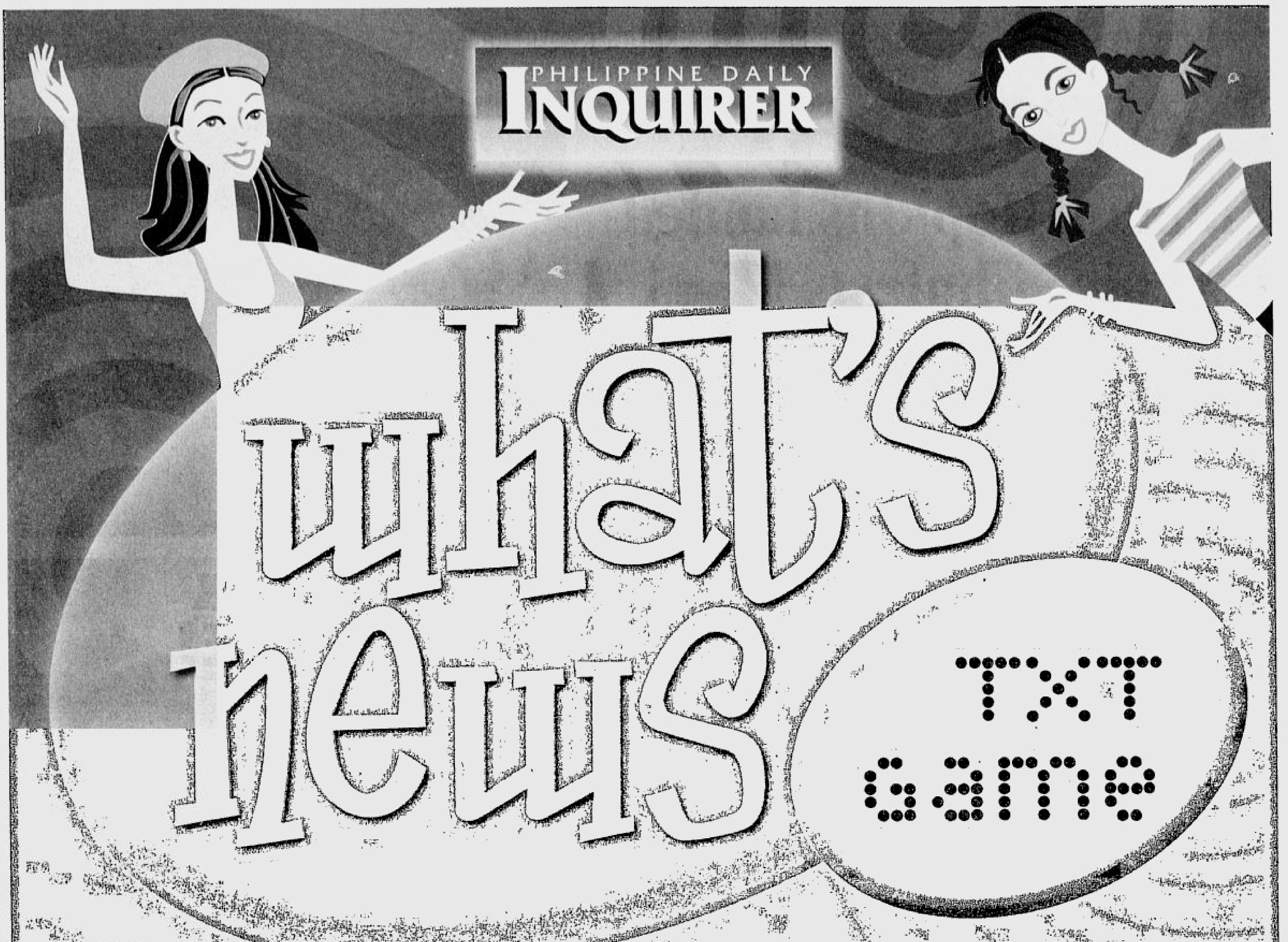

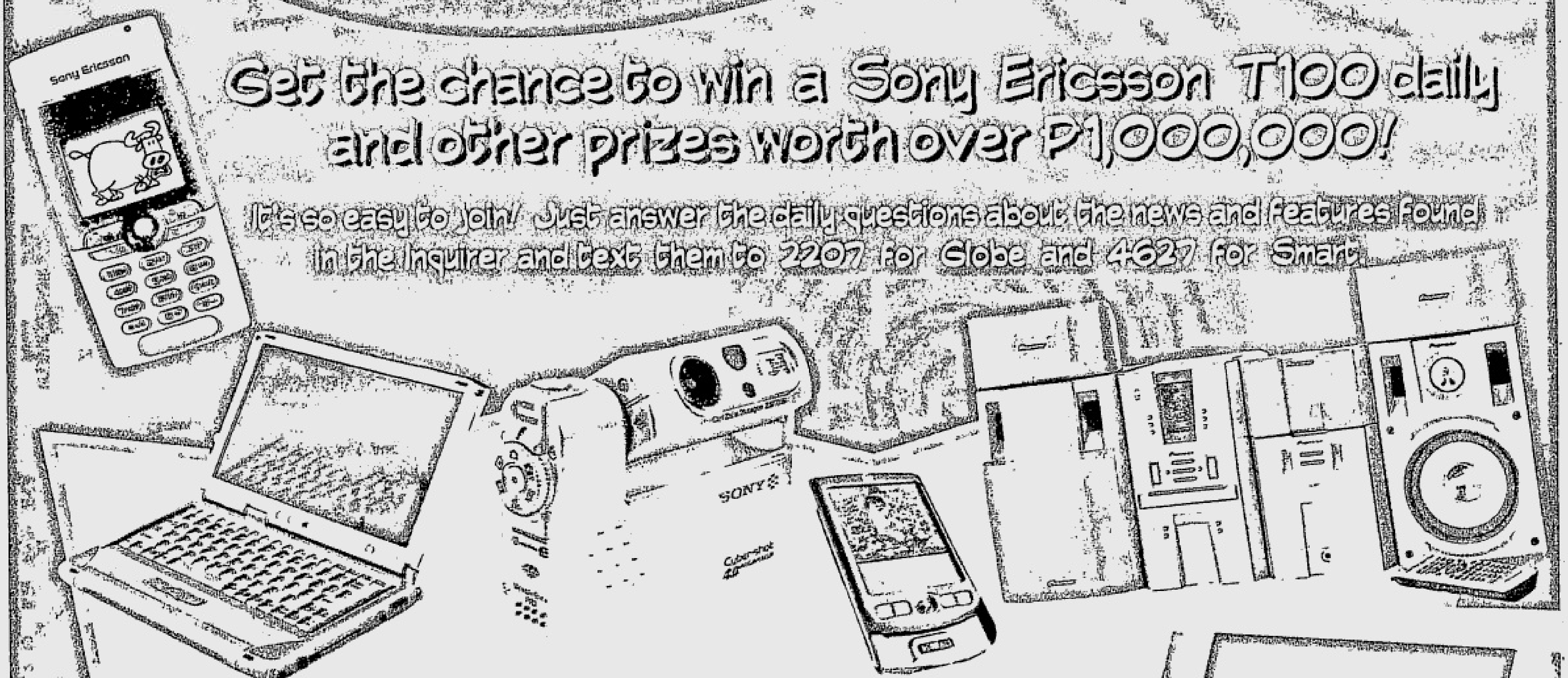

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It's so easy to join! Just answer the daily questions about the news and features found in the Inquirer and text them to 2207 for Globe and 4627 for Smart.

PROMO MECHANICS

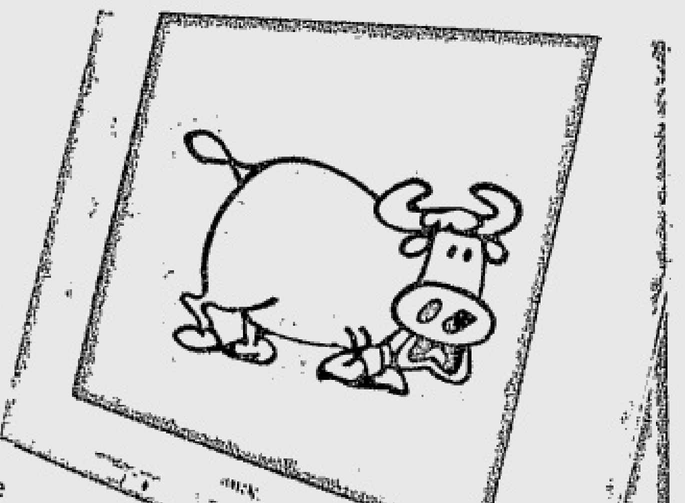
- Promo is open to all Globe and Smart Subscribers.
- Promo period is from July 27 to September 24, 2003.
- TO JOIN: text PDI to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Joining the promo is free.
- TO REGISTER: text PDI REG FULL NAME/ADDRESS/BIRTHDAY (Ex. PDI REG Ed Santos/22 Lira St. BF Homes/120873) and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Registration is free.
- TO ANSWER: text PDI ANS <letters of your choice> and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Ex. PDI ANS A/B/C/D
- 5 daily multiple-choice questions will be placed in a daily ad published in the Inquirer.
- Questions every Wednesday and Saturday will be taken from the *2bU* and *Saturday Special Super* sections. All other questions will be general questions about youth trivia and the Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant one raffle entry.
- Answer fifteen (15) questions correctly and receive an invite to join the INQUIRER READERS CLUB.
- Your mobile number will serve as your raffle entry.
- HOW TO ACCUMULATE RAFFLE ENTRIES:
  TRIVIA: Each correct answer gives you 1 raffle entry.
  DOWNLOAD GUYITO: Each download gives you 10 raffle entries. You can only download a maximum of 10 Guyitos during the promo period.

DAILY RAFFLE DRAW

- The prize is a SONY ERICSSON T100 MOBILE PHONE.
- There will be SIXTY (60) WINNERS for the total duration of the promo.
- Deadline of entries for the daily draw is from 12:00AM to 11:59PM.
- A DTI representative will be present for the raffle draws.
- Daily winners will be drawn EVERY SATURDAY at The Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 10:00AM from August 2 to September 27, 2003.
- A participant can only win one daily prize during the promo period.
- A daily prize winner will still be qualified for the grand draw.

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

- The prize is a TECHIE PACKAGE consisting of:
  - Fujitsu Life Book P1120
  - Palm Zire 71
  - Pioneer DVD Mini Compo EV-51
  - Sony CTV KVXA29N90
  - Sony Cybershot DSC F-77
  - Sony Ericsson T310 with CommuniCam™
- There will be only ONE (1) WINNER of the Techie package.
- There will be THIRTY-FIVE (35) CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS of P10,000 each.
- A participant can only win once in the grand draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
- Deadline of entries is until 11:59PM of September 24, 2003.
- Grand raffle draw will be aired on Sept. 28, 2003 between 2:30PM to 4:00PM on GMA-7.
- A DTI representative will be present for the grand raffle draw.
- A print ad with the names of all winners will come out in the *2bU* section of the Inquirer on October 1, 2003.
- All winners will be notified via telephone call as well as via registered mail. **Winners are never sent text messages.**
- All winners can claim their prizes at Philippine Daily Inquirer located at Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
- All winners must show valid identification (e.g., Drivers license, SSS, etc.) and the SIM card used to participate.
- Winners will have 60 days to claim their prizes.
- Employees of Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Communications, Inc.,Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inq7 Interactive, Inc., and Harrison Communications and its agencies, as well as relatives up to second degree the of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975 Series of 2003

'Freaky Friday' updated

IN 1976, the original "Freaky Friday" film starring the teenage Jodie Foster hit it big with its imaginative and instructive story about a mother and daughter switching places so they could understand each other better.

The very entertaining film is being updated for today's audiences by way of a new production starring Jamie Lee Curtis and "The Parent Trap's" Lindsay Lohan.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

What do the updates consist of? Screenplay writer Heather Hatch observes, "Women's roles have changed so much. This remake provides the opportunity to dig up a little deeper, to really explore what it is to be a teenager today, and what it is to start a new family."

Ayen directs 'One'

Ayen Munji-Laurel has proven herself in the fields of club singing, musical theater and recording. Now, she's trying her hand at stage directing by way of "One," a "soul-inspiring" concert that topbills some of the country's top musical artists.

Mad Dash finals today

MTV announces the five teams who will play for the final round today of the craziest scavenger hunt in town—MTV's Mad Dash:

They are John Aguilar, Retzel Orquiza, Mark Edsel Rodil and Lauren Atupan, Team 1; Thumbie Remigio, Exequiel Naculangan, Stephen Chanco and Rizielle Tangan, Team 2; Kerwin Recalde, Alvin Sanchez, Randy Ypon and Angela Sanchez, Team 3; Marc Leviste, John Gregorio, Illac Diaz and Karismo Velando, team 4; and Francis Jocson, Yves Gonzales, Leemuel Cuan and Michelle Nocon, Team 5.

The championship round kicks off at 6 a.m. at the Megastrip. Prizes are P150,000 in cash plus Smart Amazing Phones, Caltex gift certificates and Pepsi premium items. A victory party will be held at 8 p.m. at the Megastrip with 7 Shots of Wisdom and Sugarfree performing.

'Animal Locomotion'

This Monday on "Sineskwela" (Channel 2, 9 a.m.), the teaching point is "Animal Locomotion." Tonton goes to a farm to learn how animals move.

'Wedding Works'

Wedding planner and coordinator Bangs Zaldivar hosts the new Studio 23 show, "Wedding Works" (Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.). The program's pilot episode today tackles effective communication in marriage, with Center for Family Ministry counselor Lori Cipriano.

MUNJI-LAUREL. Trying her hand at stage directing.

Another portion focuses on designer Rajo Laurel and his beautiful creations. The show will also feature the bridal services of Allianz Limousine.

New season

Huge reasons for kids to stay glued to the Nickelodeon channel today: a new season of fun on "Gruff's Groove Box" at 9 a.m. and "As Told by Ginger's" 10-hour marathon starting at 10 a.m.

Mascots at Dreamscape

A world of fun beckons at Dreamscape, the air-conditioned amusement theme park and family entertainment center at the 4th Level of Robinsons' Galleria. For the whole month of September, the venue opens its gate to walk-in guests for free everyday.

Dreamscape will also stage mascot shows on all Saturdays and Sundays this month.

Dreamscape is home to the Super Sonic V rollercoaster, Thunder Cruiser, Roaring Rapids, Speed Bugs bump cars, Grand Parade carousel, Wild Wild Wheels, Dream Wheel and Rainbow Racers. It also has coin-operated rides for kids and popular games like Air Hockey and Hoopshots. Call 631-7594.

'Gilmore Girls'

Studio 23 brings back "Gilmore Girls" at 8:30 p.m. today, with a repeat of the Season 2 finale. All-new episodes start telecasting Sept. 13.

The show revolves around Loralai Gilmore, a single mother, and her teenage daughter, Rory. As Season 3 unfolds, Loralai faces a heartbreaking disappointment when her rekindled romance with Rory's father is thwarted by the unexpected pregnancy of his girlfriend.

'Saturday Night Playhouse'

On RPN-9's "Saturday Night Playhouse" at 9 p.m. today, the "Earth Day Jam" concert features True Faith, South Border, Moonstar 88, Kyla, Lou Bonnevie, Kuh Ledesma, Pinikpikan, Ballet Philippines, John Lesaca and Jacqui Magno.

Busig-on festival

Ongoing until Sept. 8 is the Busig-on festival of Labo, Camarines Norte. The festival's highlight is the commemoration of Mother Mary's birthday on Sept. 8, which coincides with Labo's foundation day celebra tion.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 6 at 11 a.m., "Gossip." 5:30 p.m., "Wit." Sept. 7 at 1 p.m., "The Salton Sea." 4:30 p.m., "Hearts in Atlantis." 10 p.m., "A.I., Artificial Intelligence." Sept. 8 at 12 noon, "Almost Famous." 3:45 p.m., "Hanover Street."

Sept. 9 at 7:45 a.m., "Sixteen Candles." 2:15 a.m., "The Original Kings of Comedy." Sept 10 at 9 p.m., "Cats and Dogs." Sept. 11 at 11 p.m., "Enemy at the Gates." Sept. 12 at 1 p.m., "Gladiator."

On the Cinemax channel: Sept. 6; at 2:30 p.m., "The Fabulous Baker Boys." 6 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Amazing Creatures." Sept. 7 at 9 p.m., "The Rudy Guiliani Story." Sept. 8 at 4:15 p.m., "Born Yesterday." 11 p.m., "White Water Summer."

Sept. 9 at 9 p.m., "Dead Ringers." Sept. 10 at 9 p.m., "Awakenings." Sept. 11 at 12:30 p.m., "Nowhere to Hide." Sept. 12 at 12 noon, "Macarthur."

Walk for a cause

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

EVERY first Sunday of September, people from all walks of life participate in the country's biggest walk-for-a-cause project that benefits out-of-school youth.

Keynote speaker

This year's Alay-Lakad has no less than Vice President Teofisto Guingona as its special guest and keynote speaker at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park.

This year's lead organizers are the Philippine Jaycees, under National President Atty. Michael Alan Ranillo, with Dr. Willie Buenaventura as chairperson of Alay-Lakad 2003.

Sponsors

The Jaycees are offering companies the opportunity to be sponsors or donors. They will also raffle off attractive prizes, which include gift certificates, entertainment and kitchen showcases, and one multi-cab as the grand prize, for the very affordable ticket price of P20.

Parties interested in joining the Alay-Lakad on Sept. 7 may enlist their organizations or clubs. Call the ALFI National Office at 523-1539 or 522-6134.

* * *

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ALAY-LAKAD beneficiaries perform a song number at the Quirino Grandstand.

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

INDAY Badiday can't submit her column because she is ill. We request readers to pray for her swift recovery and complete healing.

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'TALK TO HER'

Poignant but not schmaltzy

By Rito P. Asilo

THERE'S never a dull moment when you watch Pedro Almodovar's films. He proves just as easily as he weaves his visually exciting stories that "dark" can be entertaining, too.

Wildly irreverent

In the '80s, when we were first introduced to his movies ("Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down," "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," "What Have I Done to Deserve This?" and "Law of Desire," which starred a very young Antonio Banderas), we thought we'd never see the day when Filipino filmgoers would be able to see his wildly irreverent, darkly comic satires, because of the director's casual attitude towards nudity.

At first glance, his movies look more campy than substantial, but you soon discover that they're more than just that. Almodovar's "Live Flesh" was shown here three years ago without much fanfare. The MTRCB has demonstrated that it can be reasonable when evaluating fine films. In "Talk to Her's" seven-minute movie-within-a-movie, "The Shrinking Lover," featuring "Sex and Lucia's" Paz Vega, a scene even shows a giant female genital into which the shrunken male protagonist vanishes!

ALMODOVAR'S film proves that "dark" can be entertaining, too.

Emotional impact

But cutting this particular scene would have trivialized and lessened the emotional impact of the film because it is used to explain one of the film's great mysteries—the comatose female patient suddenly gets pregnant four years after her accident! But that's getting ahead of the story.

More recently, while still retaining their aesthetic zing, the films of world cinema's 'bad boy' have become more sedate, poignant without being schmaltzy, and more real. This is evident in Almodovar's "All About My Mother" and in the recent "Talk to Her."

Devoted male nurse

In "Talk to Her," two men—an Argentinian travel book writer Marco (Dario Grandinetti) and a devoted male nurse Benigno (Javier Camara) who sincerely believes that patients in persistent vegetative state really hear him when he talks to them—forge an unlikely friendship while they watch over the two comatose women they love—a fearless female matador, Lydia, who has a paralyzing fear of snakes, and a beautiful female ballerina, Alicia, respectively. *(To be concluded)*

3-D movies . . .

From page E1

was very popular with viewers who wanted extra visual excitement. Horror, adventure and fantasy movies were deemed particularly effective when done 3-D style, so that's what viewers got-in heaps!

If 3-D was so popular decades ago, why did it fall into disfavor after only about a decade? The headaches and eyestrain it could cause were problematic, as were the special equipment needed, the extra expense required; and the paucity of moviehouses equipped to screen the special 3-D productions.

But advances in camera engineering, optical technology and filmmaking techniques have brought 3-D movies back in vogue again, and "Spy Kids 3" is setting the pace for a new batch of 3-D movies to hit the screen with extra visual wallop.

Versatile camera

Robert Rodriguez, the film's director, used a versatile new 3-D camera that was commissioned by "Titanic" director James Cameron for his groundbreaking 3-D Imax movie, "Ghost of the Abyss."

The camera is an improvement on the old 3-D equipment because it has the unique ability to cross its lenses, like human eyes crossing, in order to reduce eyestrain.

The new 3-D movies can also be released in different ways—in theaters , with anaglyphic glasses, on giant Imax screens, and even on a flat television screen without the 3-D.

"Spy Kids 3-D" was a hit in the States, so Miramax is planning to shoot more 3-D movies. If they continue to do well at the tills, we can expect other film studios to follow.

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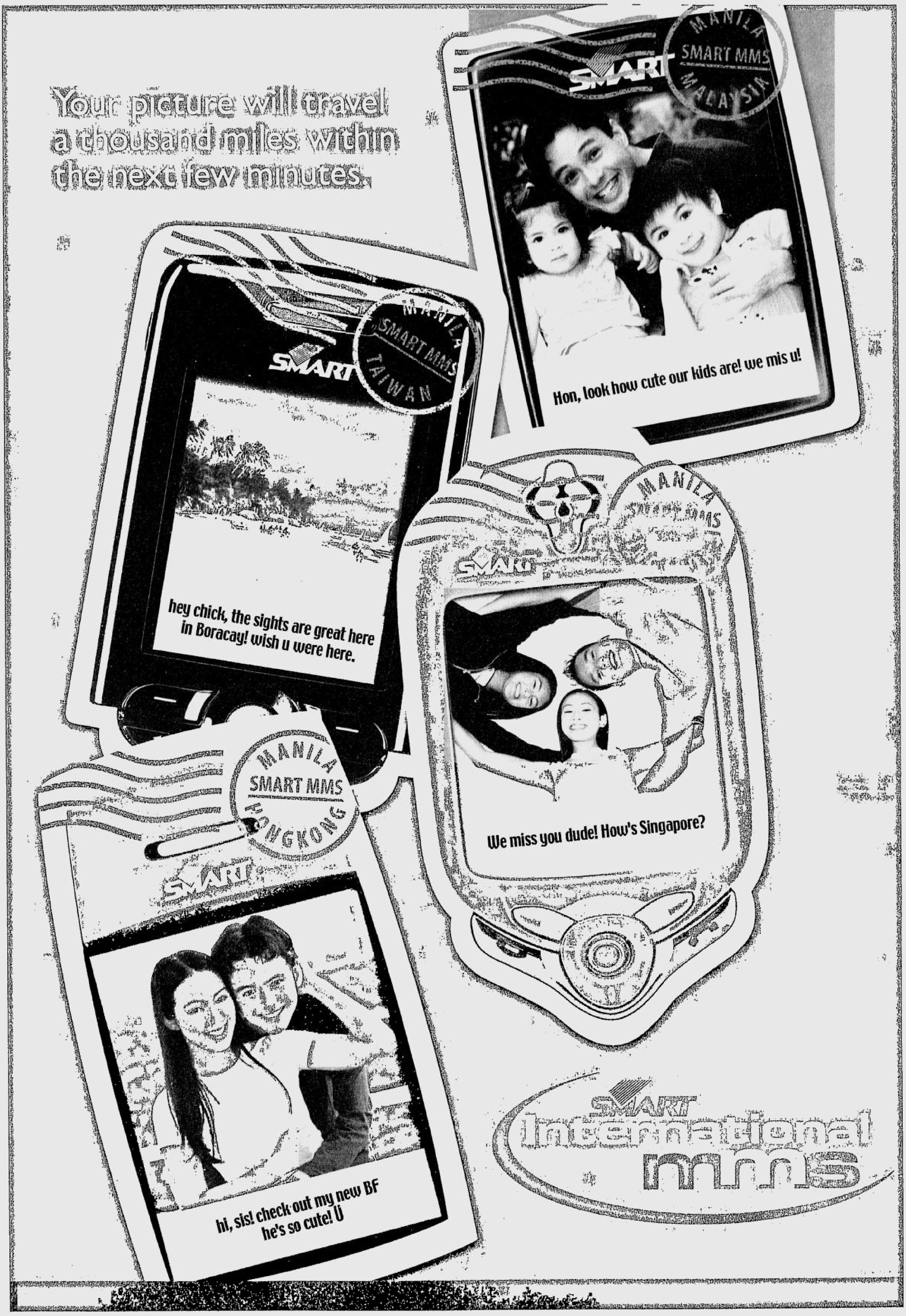
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

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SATURDAY Super Stud

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

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THE LISTERINE DYNAMITE DENTAL CARE Tour

Festival Mall, Carousel Area
September 6-7, 2003

Models as pop icons
page H3
Send in the clowns
page G3
Freaks in the city
page H2
Transmission errors
page H1
Seven days with Super
page G4

Celebrity golfer envious over rival's birdie.

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One out of 4 senior citizens
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- dulling of taste buds
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Show your love for Lola by making sure she gets enough nutrition in her golden years. With Ensure, she can. It's the No. 1 Doctor-Recommended Oral Meal Replacement in the USA and the Philippines - *complete and balanced* with the right amounts of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals to help her body fight infections and diseases.

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References: [1]Based on a US Study: Cope, Kathy "Malnutrition in the Elderly: A National Crisis," Region X, U.S. Administration on Ageing, Nutrition Screening Initiative, 1993

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

It was an itsy bitsy 'tini wini' ...

A MOTORCADE of Beetles and top-downs and the brightest stars came together to signal the coming of Tini Wini Kid's Choice—the Awesome Cookie Election mall tour.

Okay, so we're not kids anymore, but nothing can stop us from having a grand time with yummy goodies and star-studded treats. Ellie Fudge, Choco Hippo and Nutty Ally—how can we resist?

Kiddie power reigns! *TY*

BRAD Turvey, Len Pozon, Chester Cajucom-Uy

ATE Glow with the bodyguards

KC Montero and Heaven Arespacochaga

AI-AI de las Alas and Boy Abunda

PAULA Peralejo

FRANCO Jorge, John Lloyd Cruz, Clara Sotto

ALFIE Vargas

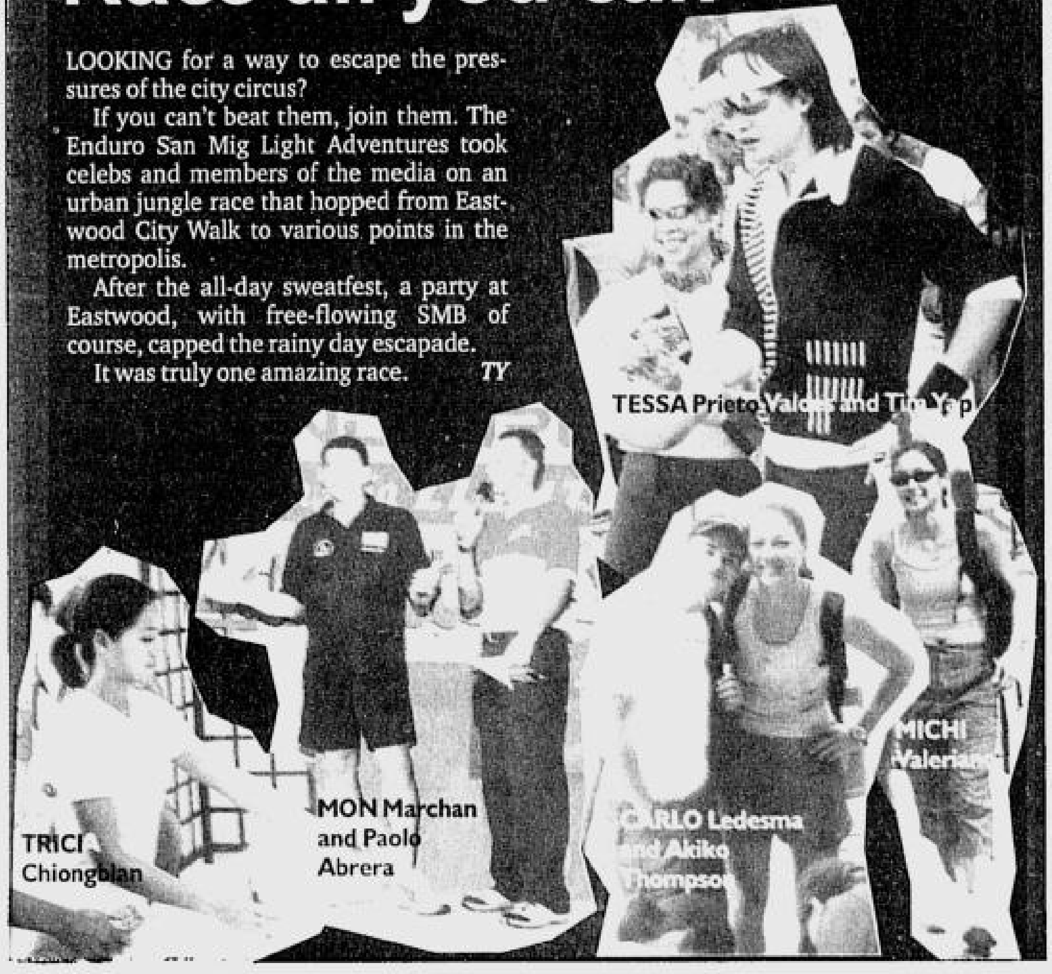
Race all you can

LOOKING for a way to escape the pressures of the city circus?

If you can't beat them, join them. The Enduro San Mig Light Adventures took celebs and members of the media on an urban jungle race that hopped from Eastwood City Walk to various points in the metropolis.

After the all-day sweatfest, a party at Eastwood, with free-flowing SMB of course, capped the rainy day escapade.

It was truly one amazing race. *TY*



TESSA Prieto Valdes and Tim Yap

TRICI Chiongbian

MON Marchan and Paolo Abrera

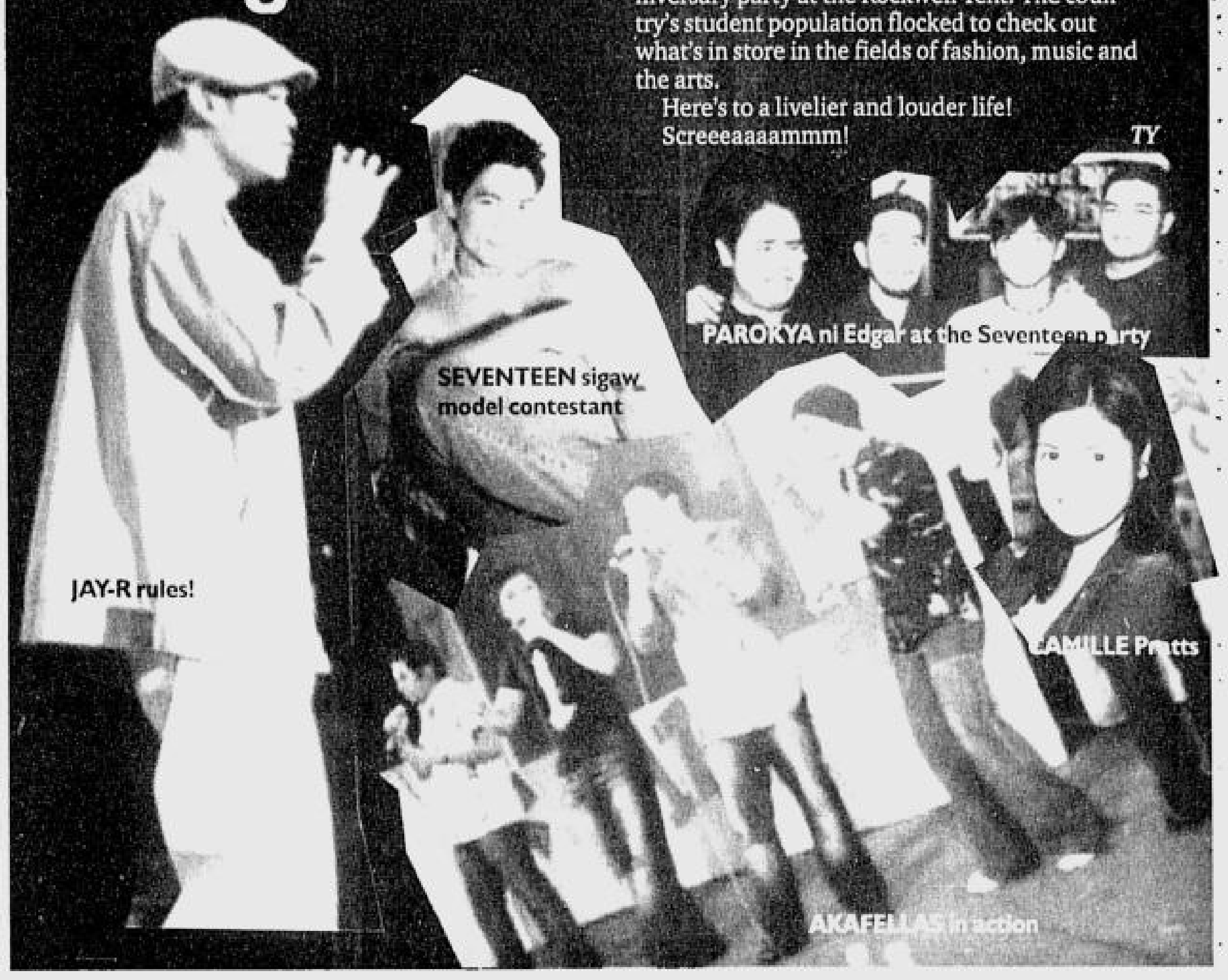
CARLO Ledesma and Akiko Thompson

MICHI Valeriano

Let's get loud!

SUMMIT'S Seventeen magazine packed in more than the teen vote when they had their third anniversary party at the Rockwell Tent. The country's student population flocked to check out what's in store in the fields of fashion, music and the arts.

Here's to a livelier and louder life! Screeeaaaammm! *TY*



PAROKYA ni Edgar at the Seventeen party

SEVENTEEN sigaw model contestant

JAY-R rules!

CAMILLE Pratts

AKAFELLAS in action

"I stopped touching her."

I didn't want to be in that situation again.

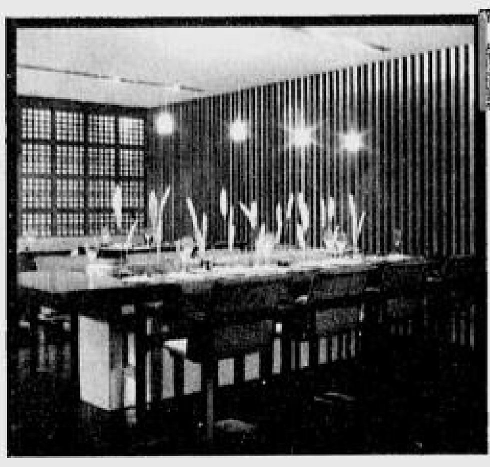
IT'S NOT that I didn't want to make *love*... I just could *not*... and I avoided showing affection, fearing things might lead *somewhere*...

UNTIL I learned I had a medical condition called ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. It affects 87 million men in Asia, but it's very treatable. My doctor prescribed a treatment for me, and since then, *romance is back in our marriage.*

KNOW MORE about it

Now there's a new treatment for ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. If you think this can help you or your spouse, don't hesitate to consult a doctor. To know more about ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION and this new treatment, you can call the CIALIS HELPLINE at 1-800-1-888-2436, send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com, or visit www.cialis.com.ph.

Pearl of the Mandarin

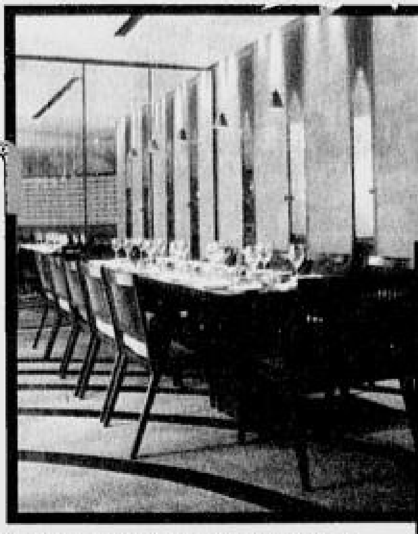

PASEO UNO'S cheerful atmosphere evokes the character of the Philippines

FOR trendspotters looking for a great place away from mall-based fun, Mandarin Oriental has formally opened its latest draw for cosmo-philes: Paseo Uno!

Paseo Uno exudes the charm and pedigree of chic dining. A theater of open kitchens with exciting buffets and an interplay of lights and textures from floor to ceiling highlight this architectural gem of a restaurant. With ponds, waterfalls and glass art—it's a definite treat for the senses.

Check it out.

TY


THE FLOORING, wall and ceiling treatments showcase an interplay of lighting and textures

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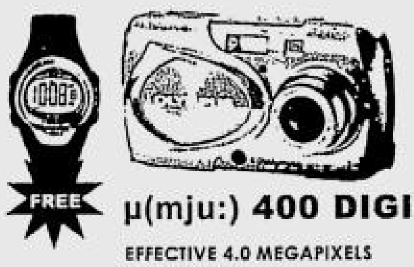

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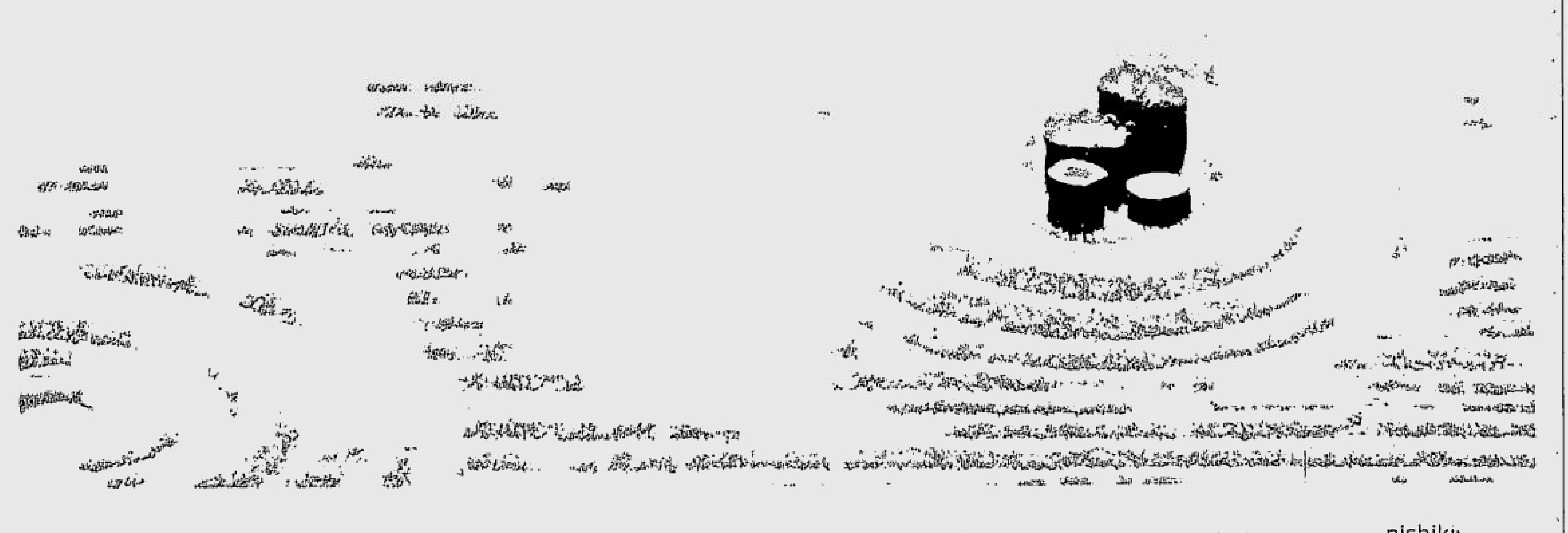


Everything is authentic Japanese, from the food to the mood. EDSA Shangri-La brings back the glory of Japanese dining with the opening of Nishiki. From the Zen sculpture to the bamboo accents, the flavor of Japan surrounds you as you dine at the sushi bar, Teppanyaki tables, or any of our private rooms. You'll enjoy new signature dishes, as well as the traditional favorites, prepared by our renowned Japanese chefs. Call 634-7373 or 633-8888 ext 2738 and 2739 and we'll reserve a setting for you.

nishiki
Japanese cuisine

Circus, Circus!

by
Pam Pastor

STEP right up, step right up, watch this giant of a man dodge accusations left and right.

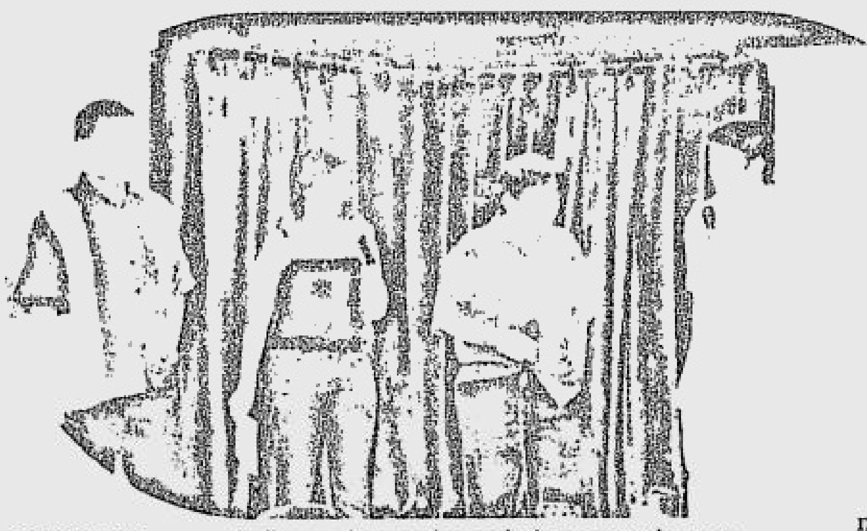
THE WORLD can be your own circus. Here's how:

Visit Comfort Room. In the past, people have avoided going to comedy clubs in fear of being ridiculed by stand-up comics. Comfort Room is out to erase that stigma. Here, instead of being the target, the audience joins in on the fun. Humor is witty and smart, not sleazy and degrading.

One Saturday night, we caught Silly People's Improvisational Theater (SPIT), a bunch of talented comedians (clowns, if you wish) with a flair for, as the name suggests, adlib. The group, which includes Gabe Mercado and Joel Trinidad, prepared different segments to the delight of the audience. Most memorable was the three-headed fortune teller who answered questions from the audience, and Dirty Dozen, which had one of the comedians taking off one article of clothing for every mistake he committed. There was real interaction between the performers and the audience which made for twice the fun.

THIS clown won't make you laugh. Tim Curry as Pennywise, the evil star of Stephen King's "It."

FORGET the chicken-eating midgets, the contestants of Fear Factor will have you gagging.



COMFORT Room capitalizes on interaction and witty entertainment.

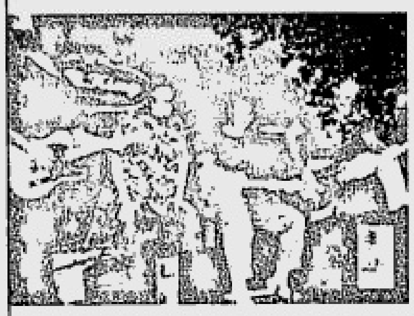
Comfort Room is on the 2nd Floor of Jupiter Place on Jupiter Street, Makati Ave.

Watch "It." If going out isn't your thing, then stay in and watch who could arguably be the scariest movie clown of all-time: Pennywise the Clown in Stephen King's "It." Watch as a group of friends fight the battle against this evil clown, actually a demonic force with the power to transform into anyone's worst fears. This film is actually two movies, featuring two battles which are 30 years apart. Enjoy it with friends or people you want to snuggle with, 'coz yeah, the movie has some freaky parts. Then again, some people say that German Moreno's "Payaso" is more scary.

Freaks on the boob tube. If movies aren't your thing, don't fret. Television is teeming with strange acts that can compete with tightrope walkers and lion-tamers. Like the cash-hungry contestants on "Fear Factor" who wouldn't think twice about eating buffalo testicles or allowing themselves to be buried under buckets of earthworms. Actually, every reality TV show is a circus. You can also get a dose of craziness from "Ripley's Believe It Or Not," talk shows and so-called specials with titles like "Scariest Police Chases" or "Stupidest Criminals" and "When Cars Attack."

Read the papers, watch the news. Is there a bigger circus than Philippine politics?

We don't think so.



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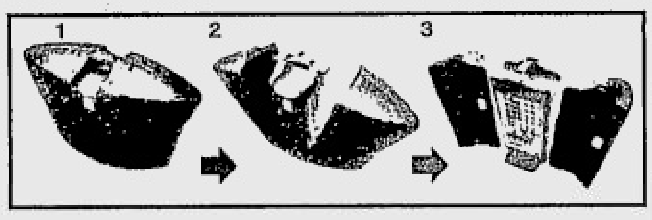

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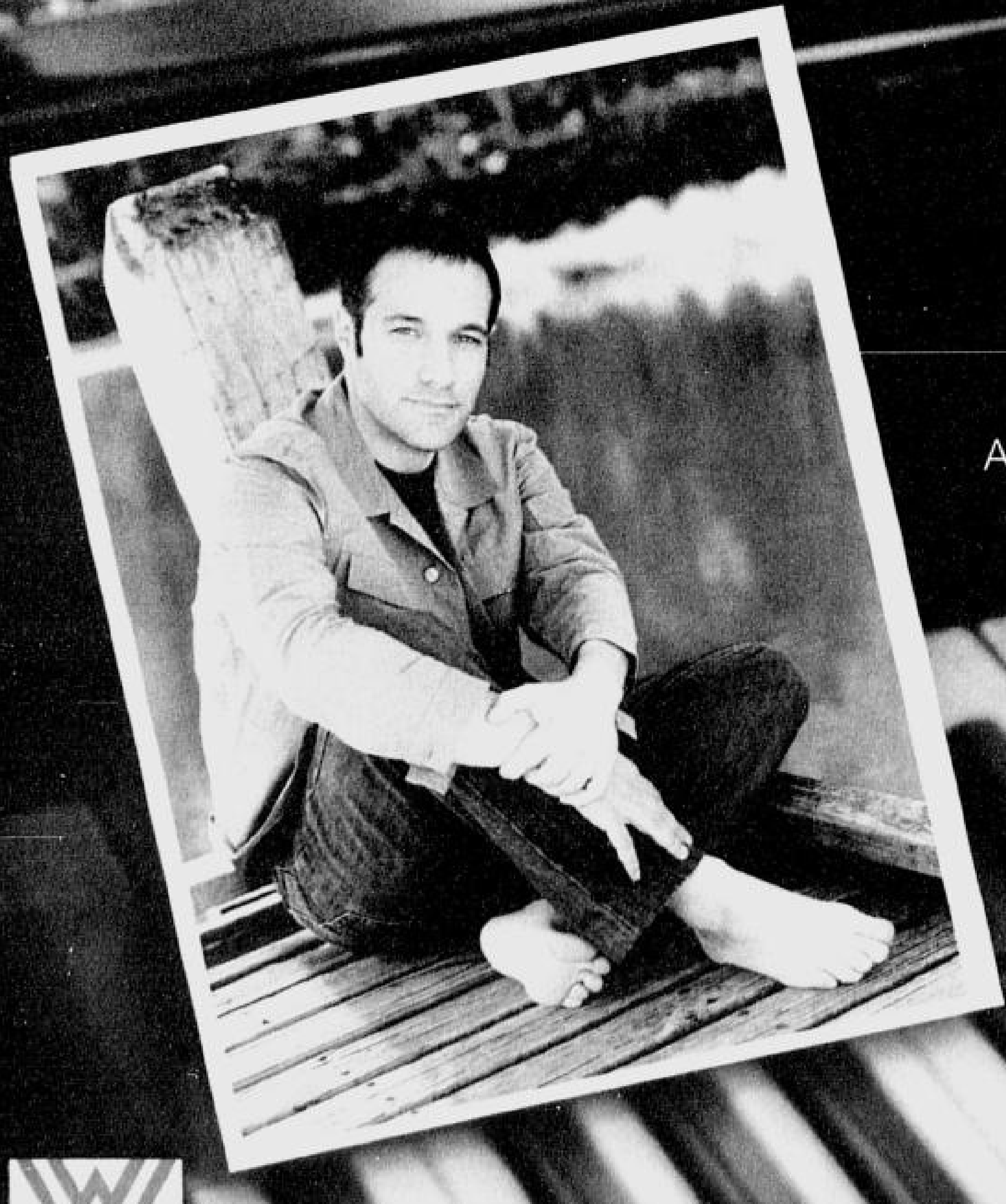

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EVENTSGUIDE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Bravo Ristorante, Adriatico cor Nakpil, Malate: "Notti Sensual al Bravo" with Wendell Garcia (deep, funky and sexy house)

Absinth: Remedy with Adrian Cuenca (electro house, disco punk) & Kevin Ruiz (progressive, New York tribal house)

Acquario: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)

Dreambar: Baleria with Bombi Balquedra & Raji Mata (progressive house) plus percussionist Fritz Barth

Wherelse?: R&B and Hip Hop

North, Bacolod: Anniversary, Manolet Dario

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

Temple: Goodlife Tuesdays with Steve Mills & Paolo Cabalfin (r&b, hip hop)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Absinth: Smooth Wednesdays with Steve Mills

Temple: Manolet Dario (progressive house)

Ice Vodka Bar: Groove Sanctuary with Adrian Cuenca (deep house to funky electro)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11

Absinth: Deep Down Thursdays with Erwin Edralin & Patch (deep, funky house)

Temple: Divine Playground with Kevin Ruiz (progressive, New York tribal house)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Restaurant 12: 12 after 12 with Chip de la Calzada (lounge, deep house) guestlist in effect

Absinth: The Taste of Orange with Owens Sun (Progressive House) & Myk Tolentino (Progressive, tech-house)

Dreambar: Decadance Boyet Almazan (80's and 90's)

Wasabi: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (r&b)

Acquario: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)

onstage 2nyt

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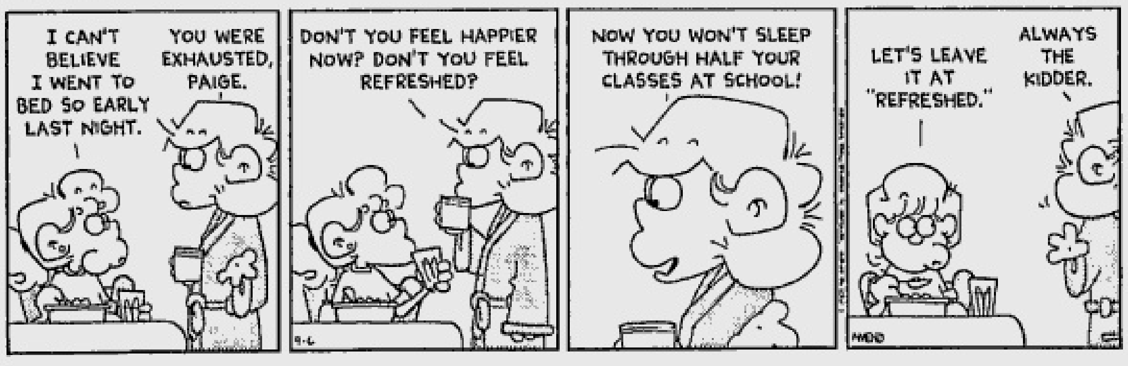
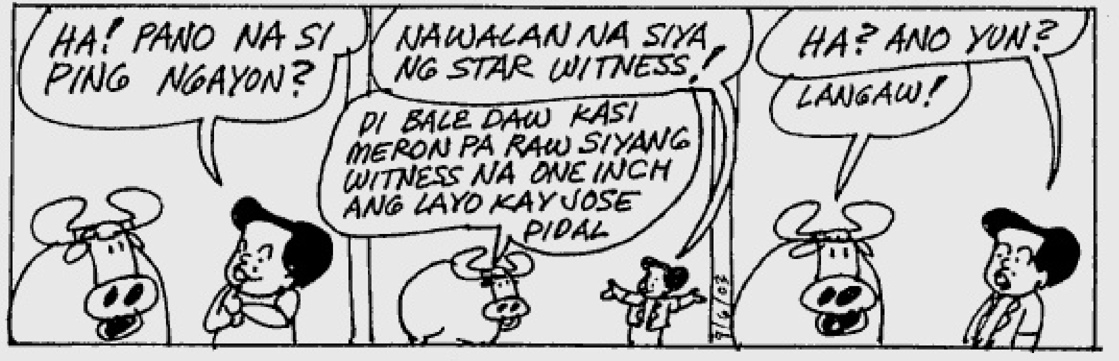
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I CAN'T BELIEVE I WENT TO BED SO EARLY LAST NIGHT.
YOU WERE EXHAUSTED, PAIGE.
DON'T YOU FEEL HAPPIER NOW? DON'T YOU FEEL REFRESHED?
NOW YOU WON'T SLEEP THROUGH HALF YOUR CLASSES AT SCHOOL!
LET'S LEAVE IT AT "REFRESHED."
ALWAYS THE KIDDER.

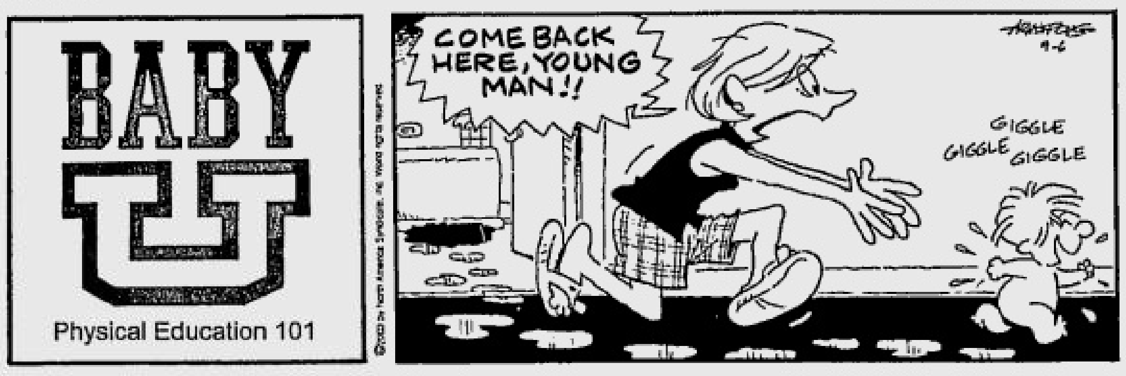
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HA! PANO NA SI PING NGAYON?
NAWALAN NA SIYA NG STAR WITNESS!
DI BALE DAW KASI MERON PA RAW SIYANG WITNESS NA ONE INCH ANG LAYO KAY JOSE PIDAL
HA? ANO YUN?
LANGAW!

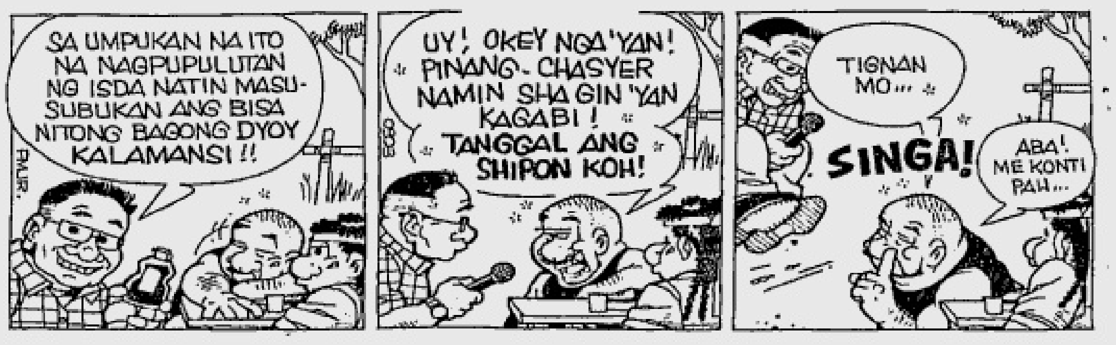
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BABY U
Physical Education 101
COME BACK HERE, YOUNG MAN!!
GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE

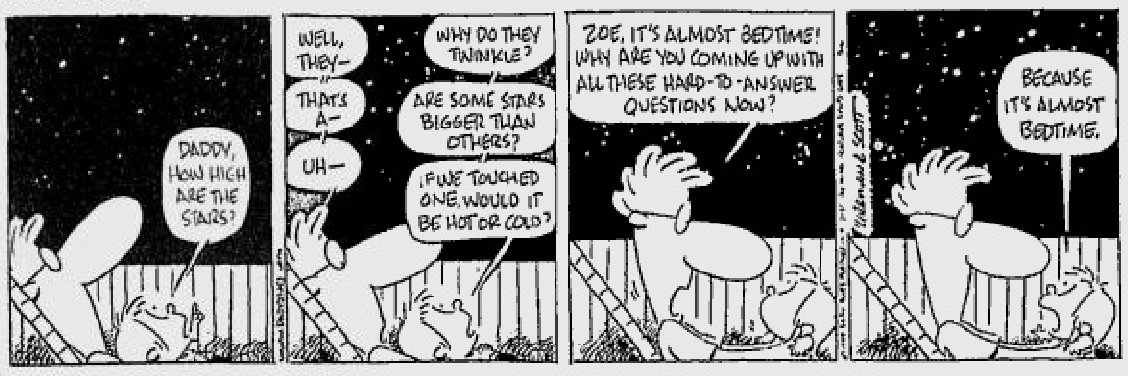
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA UMPUKAN NA ITO NA NAGPUPULUTAN NG ISDA NATIN MASUSUBUKAN ANG BISA NITONG BAGONG DYOY KALAMANSI!!
UY! OKEY NGA 'YAN! PINANG-CHASYER NAMIN SHA GIN 'YAN KAGABI! TANGGAL ANG SHIPON KOH!
TIGNAN MO...
SINGA!
ABA! ME KONTI PAH...

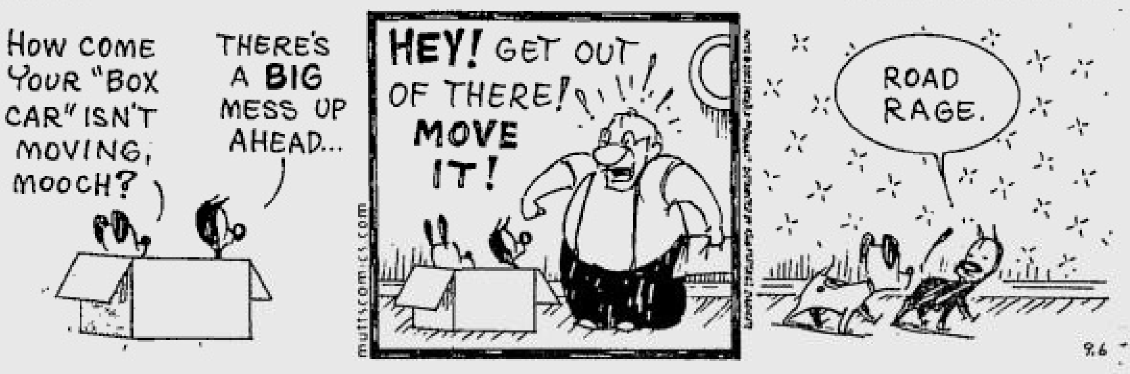
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, HOW HIGH ARE THE STARS?
WELL, THEY—
WHY DO THEY TWINKLE?
THAT'S A—
ARE SOME STARS BIGGER THAN OTHERS?
UH—
IF WE TOUCHED ONE, WOULD IT BE HOT OR COLD?
ZOE, IT'S ALMOST BEDTIME! WHY ARE YOU COMING UP WITH ALL THESE HARD-TO-ANSWER QUESTIONS NOW?
BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST BEDTIME.

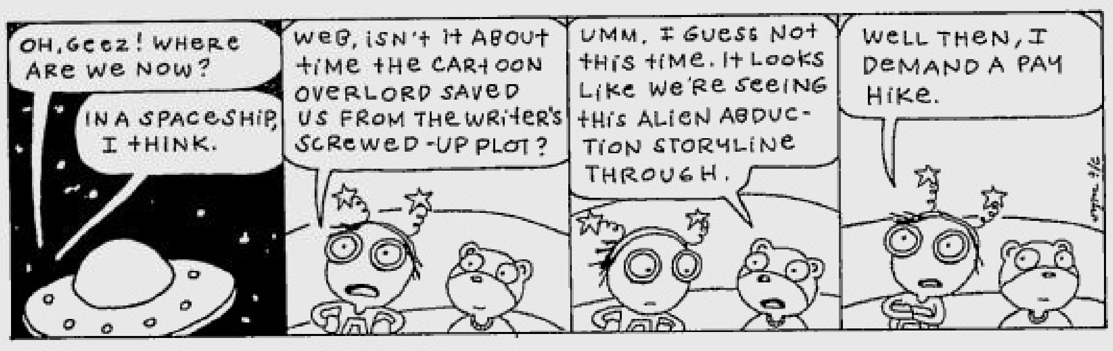
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


How come your "Box car" isn't moving, Mooch?
THERE'S A BIG MESS UP AHEAD...
HEY! GET OUT OF THERE! MOVE IT!
muttscomics.com
ROAD RAGE.
9.6

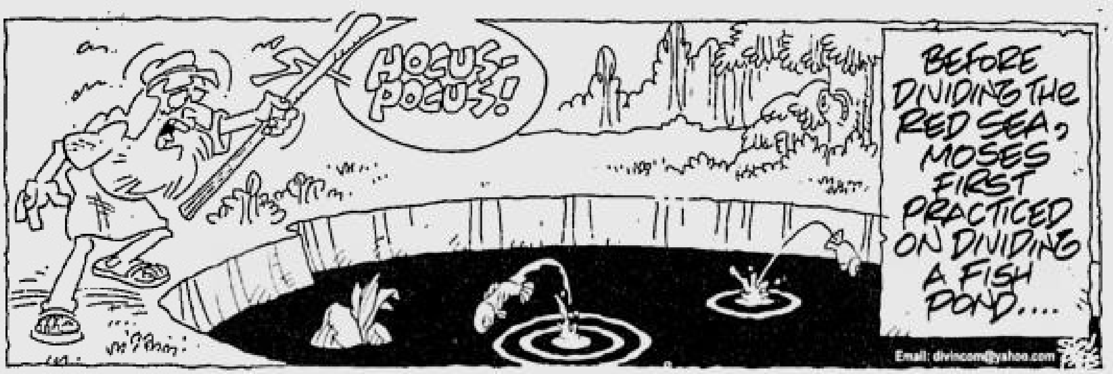
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, GEEZ! WHERE ARE WE NOW?
IN A SPACESHIP, I THINK.
WEB, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THE CARTOON OVERLORD SAVED US FROM THE WRITER'S SCREWED-UP PLOT?
UMM, I GUESS NOT THIS TIME. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SEEING THIS ALIEN ABDUCTION STORYLINE THROUGH.
WELL THEN, I DEMAND A PAY HIKE.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOCUS-POCUS!
BEFORE DIVIDING THE RED SEA, MOSES FIRST PRACTICED ON DIVIDING A FISH POND....
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a romantic at heart. You have a sense of appreciation of beauty coupled with good taste. You are accepting and sympathetic. You have learned to simply go with the flow and not try to overly direct your life. The year ahead focuses strongly on your closest personal relationships.
Birthdate of: Swoosie Kurtz, actress; Justin Whalin, actor; Jane Curtin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Although this is a day when you want to have fun and perhaps entertain friends and family, do not spend too much money. Just buy food.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a poor day to shop for anything substantial. At this time, you want to make improvements to your home. Wait until tomorrow to do so. Whatever you buy today will have to be changed in some way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a wonderful, creative day to enjoy conversations with siblings and friends. However, beware of fresh, new decisions to do something. Wait until tomorrow

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are in the mood to shop now. You want to buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones. Today, however, is a poor day to buy anything other than food.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a great day for socializing and entertaining. People are attracted to you now. Nevertheless, hold off on important decisions until tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Try to enjoy some private time just for yourself. Sneak away to read a book, take a walk or catch a movie. You need some "cooking time".

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Bright, creative ideas are flying today. This is a good time to suggest things and get feedback from others. However, do not commit to a firm decision about anything today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are certainly in the public eye more than usual now. Others might approach you about important projects. Do not agree to anything today. Wait until tomorrow.

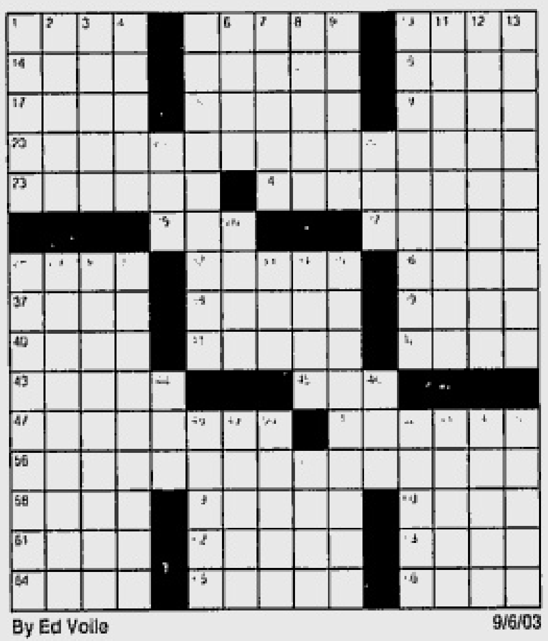
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Even though the Moon is in your sign today, it is in a very weak position. That is why you should stay in the wings and avoid major decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your mind feels a bit scattered and loose today. Respect this and refrain from making important decisions. You will see things in a new light tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Enjoy the company of old friends and partners today. People are friendly and easygoing. Just go with the flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a lot of energy to get things done at this time. Today, however, is a poor day to make important decisions. Whatever you initiate will tend not to come to fruition.

DAILY CROSSWORD

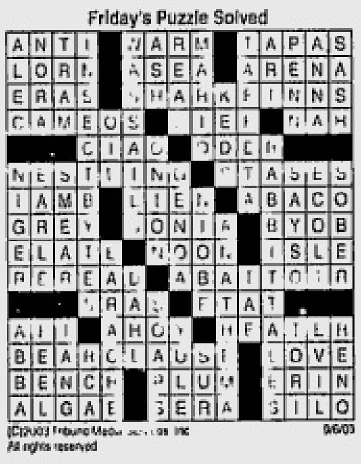


By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
9/6/03

ACROSS
1 Dateless
5 Hiawatha's craft
10 Freebie
14 Time unit
15 Overhead
16 Elliptical
17 Ski resort near Salt Lake City
18 "Giant" ranch
19 Lyra star
20 Alsatians
23 Flummox
24 Looks down on
25 Scottish author's initials
27 One thousand, in Milan
28 Mach-2 breakers
32 Poetic feet
36 __-do-well
37 Actress Garr
38 Shoelace tip
39 Hereditary factor
40 Tim of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
41 Exploding stars
42 Made haste
43 Bury
45 Krazy Kartoon Karacter
47 Cataplasm
51 Disconnect
56 How to move through the alimentary canal
58 "Blackboard Jungle" author Hunter
59 Follow in order
60 Brown-and-white porgy
61 Sacred service
62 Uses the postal system
63 Loudness unit
64 Winter glider
65 Icy rain
66 Acorns, after time

DOWN
1 Uneven haircuts
2 For rent, in London
3 Singing cowboy Gene
4 Phil or Lou
5 Deep-red chalcedony
6 Pint drinks
7 Wyle and Gordon
8 Time after time
9 Day's march
10 Outer layers
11 Wake up late
12 Biblical Mary
13 Very drunk
21 Atmosphere
22 Line of fashion?
26 Palm starch
28 Paint removers
29 One of three monkeys
30 Pulverize
31 Taken out of the game
33 MC minus XLV
34 Vulture's tool
35 Most unwavering
44 Some NFL linemen
46 Gumshoe
48 List components
49 Kiel or Suez
50 Borden's bovine
52 Italian poet of the Renaissance
53 Major aluminum producer
54 Dull, metallic sound
55 Overdoes the publicity
57 Southwestern bulrush

Friday's Puzzle Solved



A	N	T	I	■	W	A	R	M	■	T	A	P	A	S
L	O	R	N	■	A	S	E	A	■	A	R	E	N	A
E	R	A	S	■	S	H	A	R	K	F	I	N	N	S
C	A	M	E	O	S	■	[illegible]	I	E	F	■	N	A	H
■	■	■	C	I	A	O	■	O	D	E	R	■	■	■
N	E	S	T	[illegible]	I	N	G	■	[illegible]	T	A	S	E	S
I	A	M	B	■	L	I	E	N	■	A	B	A	C	O
G	R	E	Y	■	[illegible]	O	N	I	A	■	B	Y	O	B
E	L	A	T	E	■	N	O	O	N	■	I	S	L	E
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■	■	■	[illegible]	R	A	[illegible]	■	F	T	A	T	■	■	■
A	I	I	■	A	H	O	Y	■	H	E	A	T	E	R
B	E	A	R	C	L	A	U	S	E	■	L	O	V	E
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A	L	G	A	E	■	S	E	R	A	■	S	I	L	O

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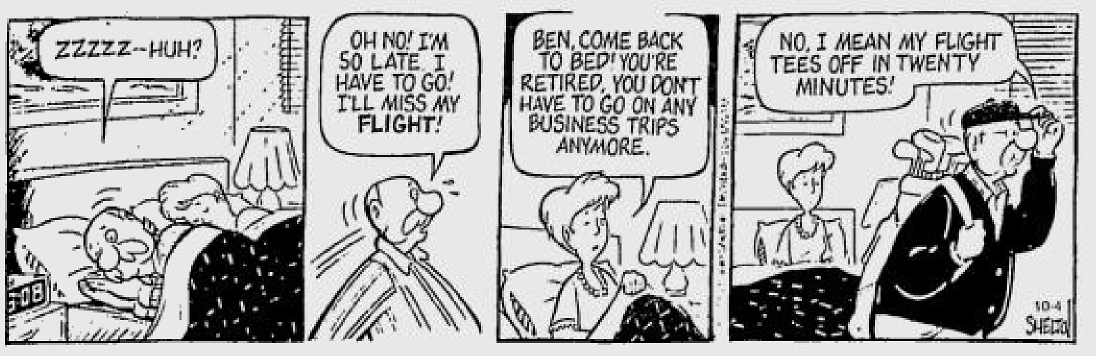
9/6/03

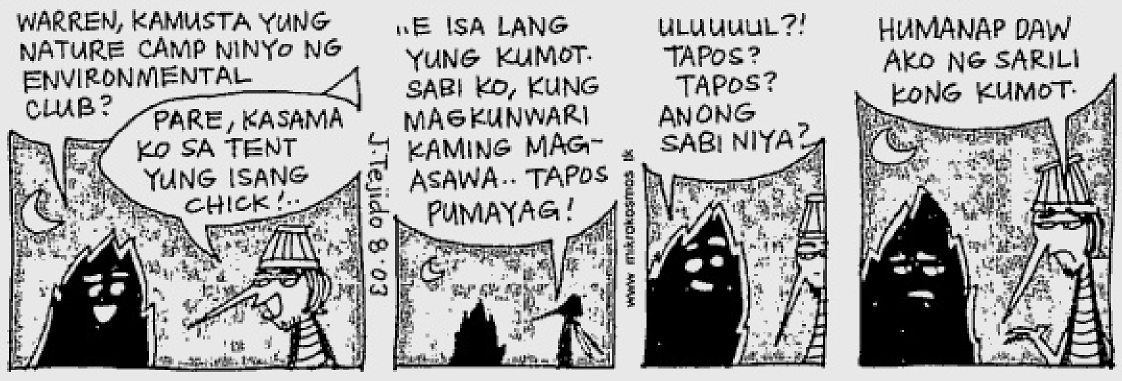
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ZZZZZ--HUH?
OH NO! I'M SO LATE. I HAVE TO GO! I'LL MISS MY FLIGHT!
BEN, COME BACK TO BED! YOU'RE RETIRED. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ON ANY BUSINESS TRIPS ANYMORE.
NO, I MEAN MY FLIGHT TEES OFF IN TWENTY MINUTES!

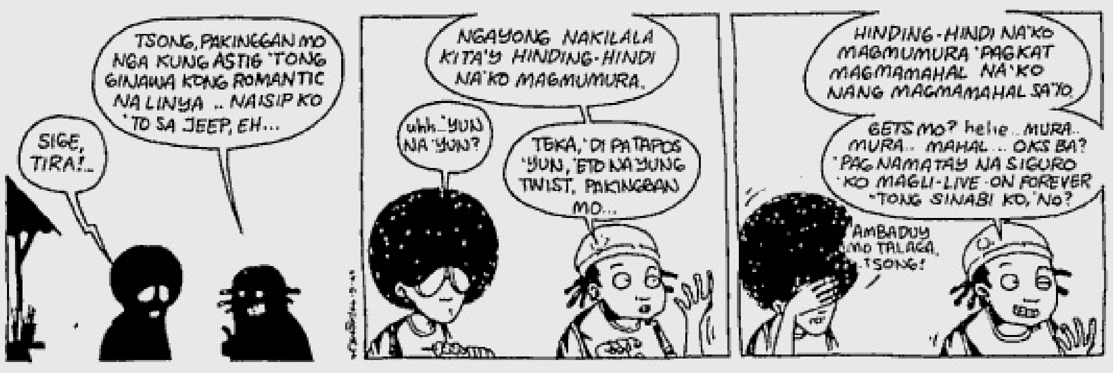
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WARREN, KAMUSTA YUNG NATURE CAMP NINYO NG ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB?
PARE, KASAMA KO SA TENT YUNG ISANG CHICK!..
J. Tejido 8.03
..E ISA LANG YUNG KUMOT. SABI KO, KUNG MAGKUNWARI KAMING MAG-ASAWA.. TAPOS PUMAYAG!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
ULUUUUL?! TAPOS? TAPOS? ANONG SABI NIYA?
HUMANAP DAW AKO NG SARILI KONG KUMOT.

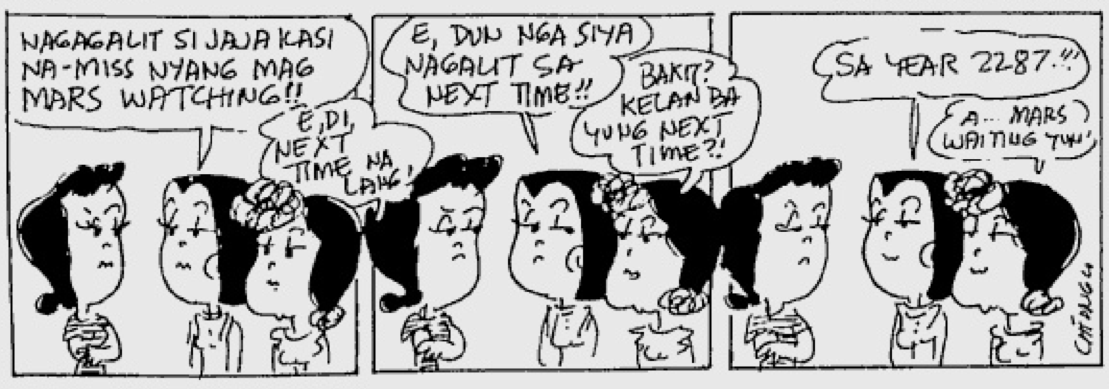
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, PAKINGGAN MO NGA KUNG ASTIG 'TONG GINAWA KONG ROMANTIC NA LINYA .. NAISIP KO 'TO SA JEEP, EH...
SIGE, TIRA!..
NGAYONG NAKILALA KITA'Y HINDING-HINDI NA'KO MAGMUMURA.
uhh..'YUN NA 'YUN?
TEKA, 'DI PA TAPOS 'YUN, 'ETO NA YUNG TWIST. PAKINGGAN MO...
HINDING-HINDI NA'KO MAGMUMURA 'PAGKAT MAGMAMAHAL NA'KO NANG MAGMAMAHAL SA'YO.
GETS MO? hehe.. MURA.. MURA.. MAHAL... OKS BA? 'PAG NAMATAY NA SIGURO 'KO MAGLI-LIVE-ON FOREVER 'TONG SINABI KO, 'NO?
AMBADUY MO TALAGA, TSONG!

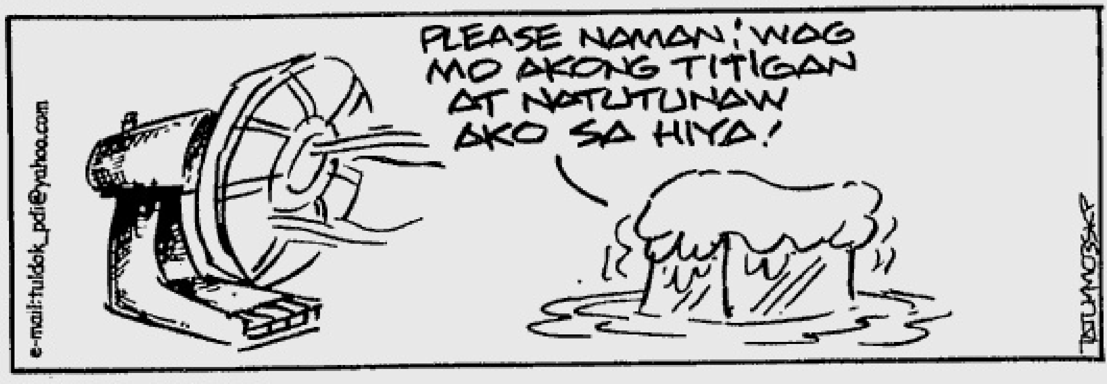
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAGAGALIT SI JAJA KASI NA-MISS NYANG MAG MARS WATCHING!!
E, DI, NEXT TIME NA LANG!
E, DUN NGA SIYA NAGALIT SA NEXT TIME!!
BAKIT? KELAN BA YUNG NEXT TIME?!
SA YEAR 2287.!!
A... MARS WAITING 'YUN'

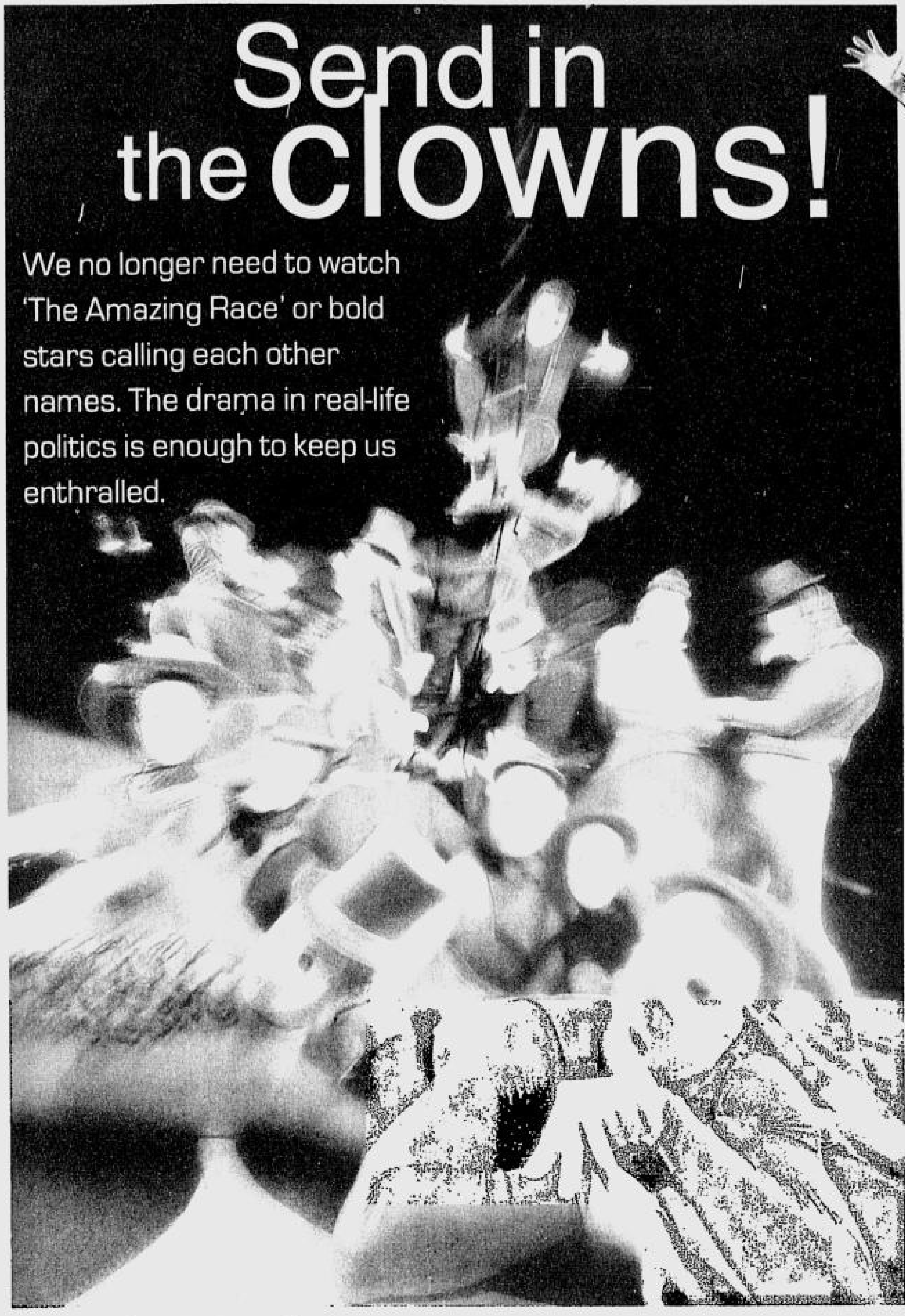
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


e-mail:tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com
PLEASE NAMAN! WAG MO AKONG TITIGAN AT NATUTUNAW AKO SA HIYA!

Send in the clowns!

We no longer need to watch 'The Amazing Race' or bold stars calling each other names. The drama in real-life politics is enough to keep us enthralled.



SWAK!

by Lex

I WAS watching one of those showbiz *chismis* shows on Sunday afternoon when they introduced an upcoming bold star named Kat de Santos.

Host: Ms de Santos, I heard you are claiming that another bold, *ahem*, I mean sexy star, Ms Katya Santos, copied your name.

Kat: (Hands on her lap, eyelids fluttering, she ever-so-gingerly whispers...) *Hindi naman, po. Alam niyo po*, as far as I'm concerned Kat de Santos is my name, and if she copies it I leave it up to God *na lang po*...

Host: So you are saying that she did in fact copy your name, *kahit na sumikat siya* before you?

Kat: (Still demure and soft-spoken) Well siguro, *ganun na nga po, pero alam mo naman, pinanganak ako na may tiwala sa itaas*. Leave it up to God *na lang siguro po*.

Host: *Pero hindi ka ba* offended *na ginaya ka? Siyempre, pangalan mo pa rin 'yon. Hindi ba?*

Kat: (In less than a second, she transforms into The Incredible Hulk—eyes glazed over, left hand on hip, right pointer finger wagging...) *Hoy*, Ms Katya Santos! *Bastos ka! Ako lang si* Kat de Santos! *Bakit ka nanggagaya?* At least *ako hindi kailangan magpa*-lipo. All natural *'ata ako, akala mo! Ikaw*—fake, fake, fake! Over *na 'yan ha! Hoy*......

Host: (Grabbing the microphone) Wow, and that's the reaction of Ms de Santos, and now to our next guest...

Jaded generation

Ours is a generation jaded by traditional forms of entertainment. To merit our attention things should be noisier, brasher, more over-the-top and in-your-face than ever. That was why Kat de Santos felt compelled to attack Katya Santos on primetime TV. This is also why Reality TV is at its peak—because it's spontaneous and uncensored.

However, Filipinos no longer need to watch "The Amazing Race" or witness bold stars call each other names in order to be amused and entertained. The real-life drama of politics is more than enough to keep us enthralled.

The circus arrives

The circus is in town. The lines between showbiz and politics are once again blurred. Taking center stage these days is Mike Arroyo, accused of being Jose Velarde, *oops!* I mean Jose Pidal.

Like millions of Filipinos, I sat glued to my TV screen, following the elaborate comedy. My favorite line came from The Senator Formerly Known As a Third of Tito, Vic and Joey: "Udong Mahusay, *magaling ka ba gumawa ng kape*?"

Obviously, Tito Sen has not lost his ability to keep the crowd laughing.

The Ringmaster, Prez GMA, has also been cracking her whip, and keeping the audience talking: "I am married to my country. I will not lift a finger to help my husband. I'm going to let the evidence speak for itself."

Next thing we know, Housing chief Mike Defensor is "rescuing" Mahusay, using government helicopters. Did I hear wrong?

Ping, The Magician, will not be outdone. He's consistently been able to make accusations (and accusers) disappear.

With half of the country's senators being either media personalities or married to media personalities, it seems that no matter what arena they enter, they remain on performance level. The question is, when will they stop thinking of their jobs as just a means to sustain public popularity and start realizing that everything they do affects real lives? Make that *our* lives!

The latest round of Senate inquiries once again proves that the main objective of many of our honorable legislators is to entertain.

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)

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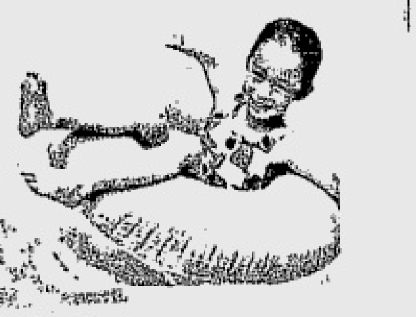
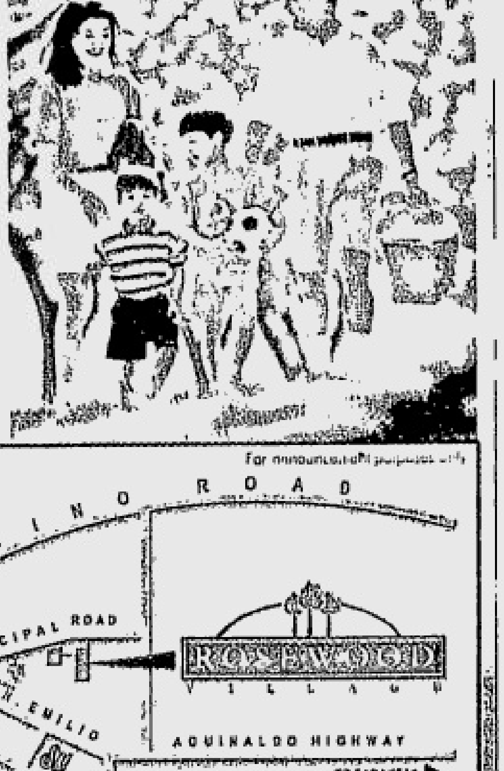
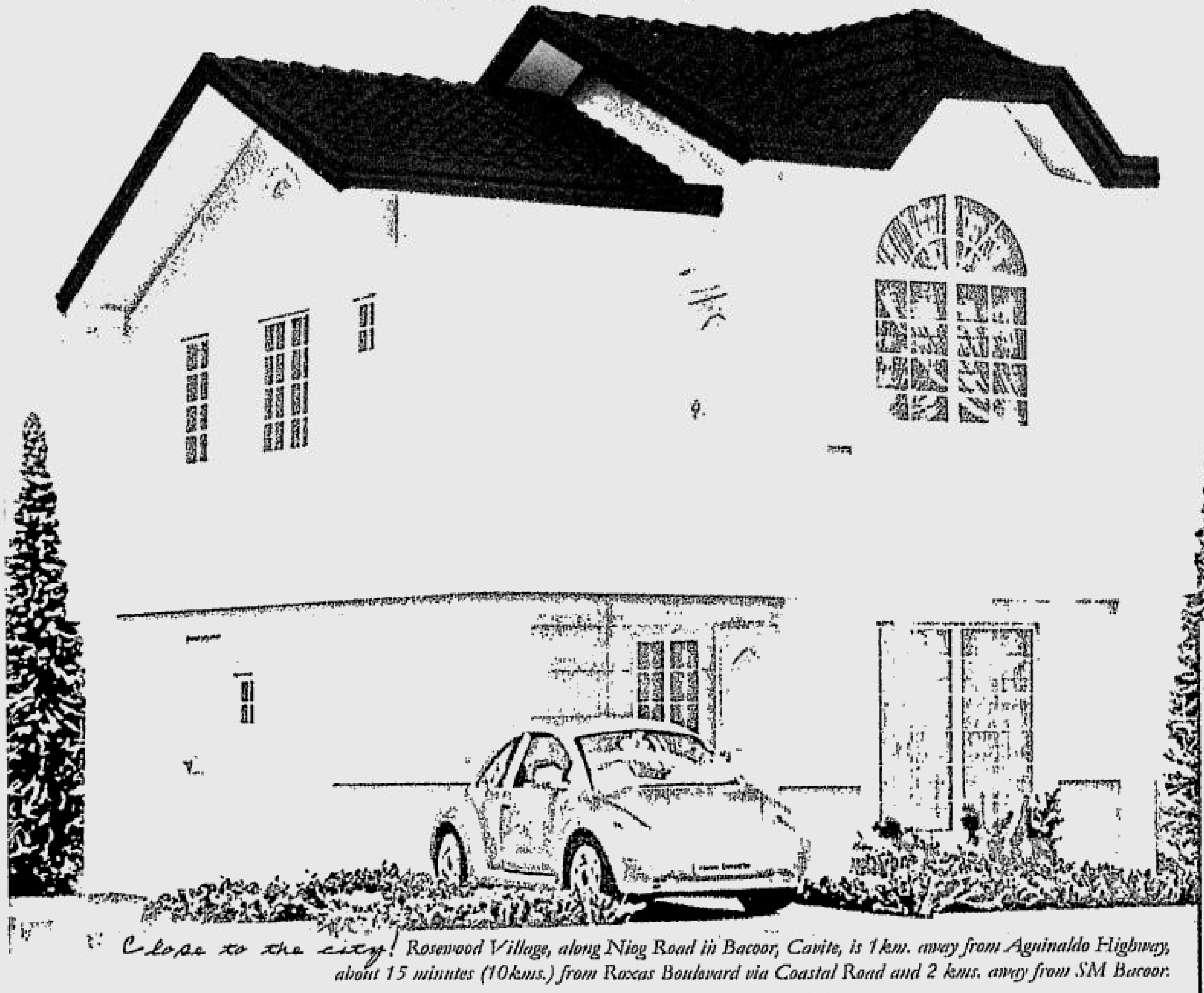


Close to fun!

Close to the goodies!



Close to the family!



Close to the city! Rosewood Village, along Niog Road in Bacoor, Cavite, is 1 km. away from Aguinaldo Highway, about 15 minutes (10 kms.) from Roxas Boulevard via Coastal Road and 2 kms. away from SM Bacoor.

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AGENTS AND BROKERS ARE WELCOME!

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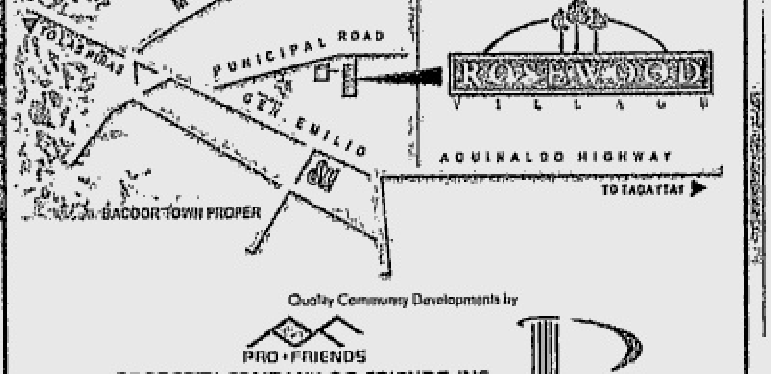

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Seven days with Super!

And you are invited!

This week-long launch will leave you Super! exhilarated

1

Day 1: Super! Fun Machine
On Sept. 14, Sunday, selected readers and special guests of Super! will enjoy screenings of two movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas 1 and 2. For trendophiles, there's "Legally Blonde2," and for speed freaks, check out "2 Fast 2 Furious." There will be games and giveaways for added fun. Cocktails start at three p.m.

2

Day 2: Super! Muscle Builder
Sept. 15, Monday, is the day for the athletic. Teams of advertisers and Super! young athletes will compete in fitness games at Play Underground in Powerplant Mall from 6 p.m. onwards. Flex those muscles and start warming up. Super! will push you to the limit.

3

Day 3: Super! Comedy and Karaoke
Celebrities, readers and advertisers will take I.O. and Comfort Room by storm on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in a night packed with music and quality comedy.

4

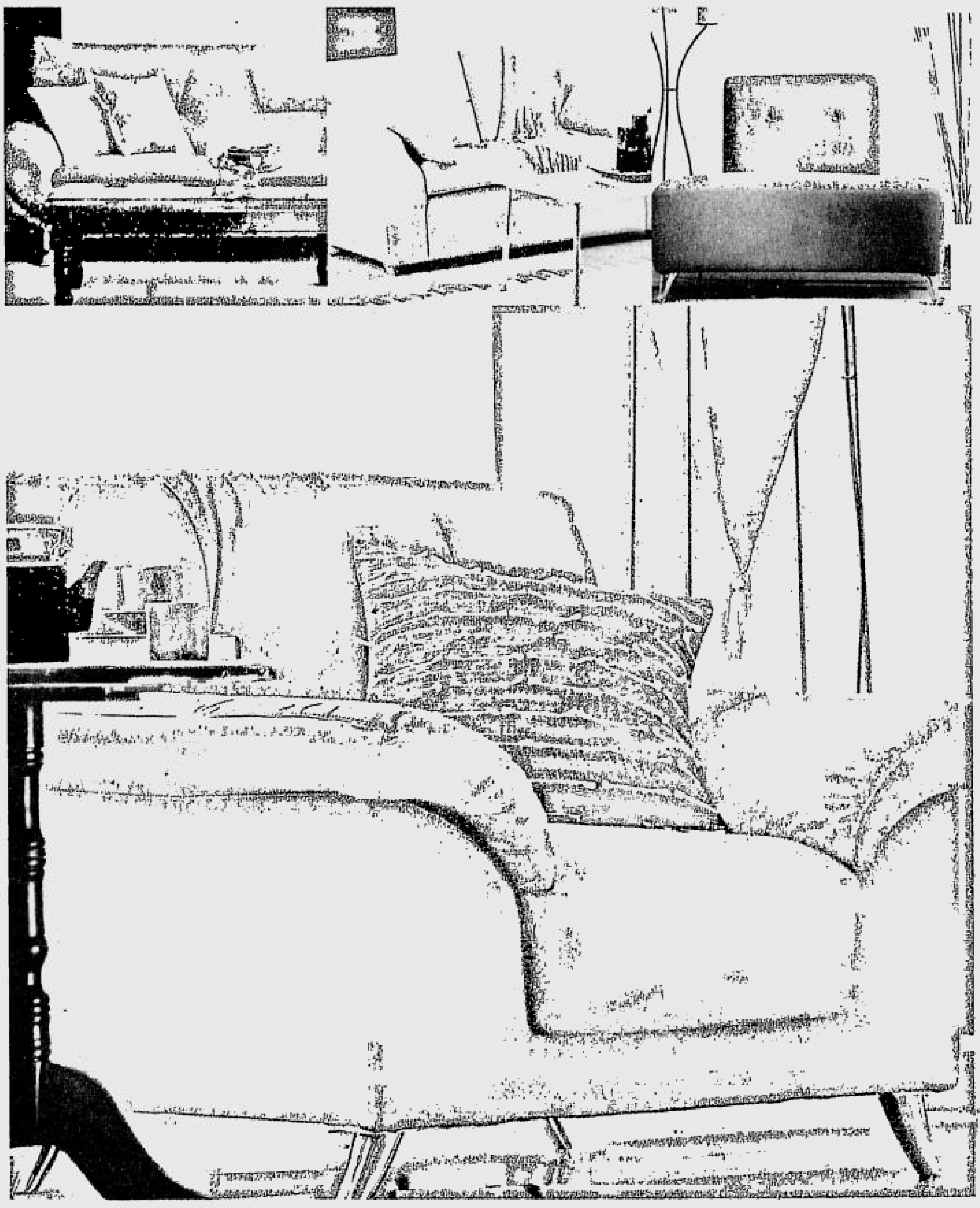
Day 4: Super! Ghetto Fabulous!
Celebrities, readers, R&B fanatics, breakdancers, homeboys and fly girls will be taking over Absinth in Greenbelt 3 for a night to remember on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

5

Day 5: Super! X-posed
Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18, in Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate. Games and prizes await the wild and the willing.

6 7

Days 6 and 7: The Launch of Super!
This is one Super! weekend you will never forget. Big Fish and Addict mobile, Wrangler, Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of the New World Rennaissance with our very own DJ Tuck Cheah. After party to be announced. Super! surprises await everyone.
Day 7 Super! "Circo Loco" with NBK DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750. House music, anthems, Latin beats—a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.



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leather and fabric sofas
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MAD ESCAPE
For every P3,000 S.I.P. purchase, you get the chance to win 1 of 3 FORD ESCAPES!
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Great designs. Great prices
our Home
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SATURD Super ial

Transmission errors

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

OKAY, I'll come clean. There was a time in the not-so-distant past when I was hooked on a very obscure cable channel. Nope, it wasn't the French music channel MCM, although it was terribly cool in a Pepe Le Pew kind of way. Neither was it Deutsche Welle, even if I watched "Heat" religiously. It was WINS, the unintentionally amusing local Japanese station. Bucking the whole MTV trend, WINS rammed its way into my pop culture consciousness with a show that made me slap my knees bloody-"Oh! Tokyo."

A cross between Fran Drescher and Kuya Germs, Eleanor Nishiumi was the obvious star of "Oh! Tokyo." Her makeshift take on TV presenting made her a one-woman multilingual circus. Her makeshift take on TV presenting made her the obvious star of "Oh! Tokyo." Interviewing bystanders with the refinement of a wrecking ball, she pulled in quite a cult following, from the really lowbrow to those trendy enough to buy Chanel surfboards. She was first in command when in came to scrutinizing the oddities of life in Tokyo within the context of a greater cross-cultural experience.

Poking at everything from omelet rice to vintage clothing, Eleanor turned the tables on our notions of typical Japanese behavior by acting like a Japanese tourist even if she was Filipino. Her interpretations were at times crude but that made them even more precious. In one classic episode, she stepped inside "Coup d'état Chic,"... a Harajuku thrift store, and picked out a Trix the Rabbit t-shirt. She instantly connected it to a type of chocolate, which was wrong on so many levels since Trix is a cereal brand.

Instead of boiling my brain down to a thick, meaty paste, this particular episode of "Oh! Tokyo" made me realize that Eleanor Nishiumi was mad awesome. She had the balls to put it out there at the risk of looking like a dumbass!

Having been to a few parts of the world, I also have my own Eleanor Nishiumi moments. Whether committed due to bad translation, gross misinterpretation, or downright silliness, these cultural bloopers are my big-up to "Oh! Tokyo."

Not a Latin lover

On a brief pitstop in Caracas, I found myself sandwiched between a Scottish backpacker and a Colombian chick. With my boredom working at full volume, I decided to shoot the breeze with them since Bogotá was still two in-flight movies away. My dialogue with the Scottish homeboy, however, was severely one-sided since he dozed off. I turned to my other neighbor who was mercifully wide-awake. After hiding my thick English-Spanish dictionary, I took a lungful of recycled air and chatted up the *señorita*.

"Será mi primera vez en Colombia y estoy muy exitado!" I beamed.

Her giggle morphed into a guffaw. I apparently had just announced that it was my first time in Colombia (check) and that I had a boner (eh?)! I mistakenly assumed that "excited" in Spanish was "exitado" so there I was, talking out of my ass. Being a sweet Latina, she said that my statement was flattering. However, she pointed out that next time, I should conjugate the verb *emocionar*. Crap! From being Rico Suave I was now a dog-the Taco Bell chihuahua. The postscript: Learn to sit through god-awful movies and shut the hell up!

Shots and jugs

A couple months ago, I was in Velvet Un-

TRANSMISSION/ H2

wow! yummy sarap!

SIZZLING PLATE
Honey-Glazed Porkchop, Mixed Vegetables, Java Rice

Chin's EXPRESS
Beef in Oyster Sauce, Seafood Curry, Lomi & Rice

Sandy's Cuisine
Squid Chili w/ Mushroom, Kangkong w/ Oyster Sauce, Rice & Soup

HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE
Chicken Mami Snack Size; Regular Siopao

Inihaw EXPRESS
Lechon Paksiw, Seafoods Guisado, Rice & Chicken Soup

ILONGGO GRILL
Pochero & Rice

LYDIA'S LECHON
Choose Any 2 Viands w/ Rice

KAMAY KAINAN
Adobong Baboy Lumpiang Shanghai or Pancit Canton & Rice

handaan
Fried Spareribs Pinakbet & Plain Rice

WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Patatim, Sotanghon, Rice & Soup

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FREE Mini Marble Cheesecake for every Sarap Meal purchased!

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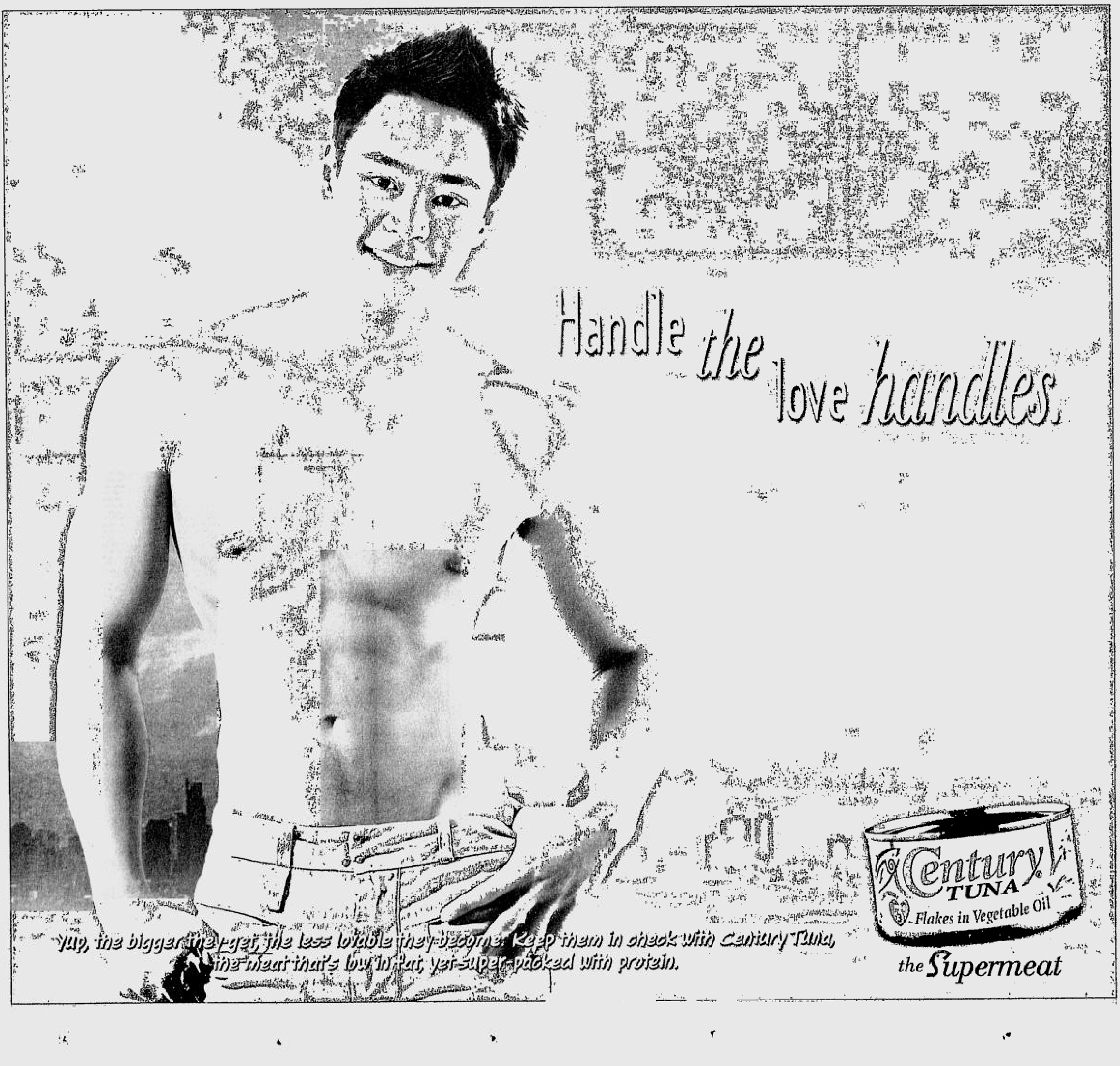


Yup, the bigger they get, the less lovable they become. Keep them in check with Century Tuna, the meat that's low in fat, yet super-packed with protein.

the Supermeat

Hannah of Session Road @ Tender Bob's

This restaurant is home to all kinds of steaks and more

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

IT'S 3 p.m. and I'm late. The lunch interview was set for 1 p.m. There is a grace period for tardiness, even in "Filipino time."

To fast forward and skip excuses: the restaurant manager has taken care of making sure Hannah and her mom/manager has been fed. By the time I show up, she is already having her dessert of banana fritters ala mode w/ cinnamon, chocolate and vanilla sauce. Fortunately for me, everyone has partaken of it. Nothing like a sweet treat to break the ice. Try having dessert as first course for your next dinner gathering, for guaranteed smiles.

Hannah being able to eat ice cream is cause for celebration, as her voice should be in tip-top condition at all times. She gleefully savors each rich, luscious spoonful with the newly cooked deep-fried banana puffs.

Seeing and hearing Hannah perform is an experience like no other. The Baguio girl in full bloom has the voice of Sheryl Crow, the confidence of Alanis, the talent of the Corrs, the stage presence of Jewel and the sweetness of Natalie Imbruglia.

Hannah Romawac exudes the culture of alternative music and the culture of today's woman completely. It's easy to think she is the kind of girl that other girls would love to hate or envy, or aim to be. She also happens to be the kind that other girls are attracted to. But sorry, guys and girls, Hannah's heart belongs to fellow musician Mark Escueta, the drummer of River Maya. It's not fair that entertainers and celebs end up with one another. How about us regular folks?

My order comes, and I am to eat along. I have ordered a medium-rare, eight-ounce rib-eye steak and a six-ounce burger. I have been looking forward to this, as Tender Bob's is in the same league as Meat Plus, a steak delicatessen in Subic that I go out of my way to visit.

Here, one can choose from a selection of US Angus steaks, from the usual sirloin to t-bone, porterhouse, New York cut, tenderloin and, my pick, the rib-eye. One can also select the kind, cut, weight and "doneness" of the steak. They say some customers ask for a two-inch steak, or as much as 800 grams. I prefer my meat on the pink side, with horseradish hot mustard.

My burger is just the right size, not too big, but by no means too small. Nice, cooked to order and served hot—very important!

They have all trimmings imaginable.

They have a three-cheese burger, too, with Swiss cheddar and mozzarella for the ultimate in cheesiness. Plus the bread has a touch of sweetness, just the way most Pinoys like it. They also say some customers ask for the excess fat from the steak to be fried on the side with garlic rice. Hmm.

According to Bambi Meer, general manager—the difference between US and Australian steaks is the feed. US cows are fed corn, as opposed to Australian cows that are fed barley (wheat/rice). There is so much history behind a steak!

Not living up to her reputation as a tough and aggressive hard-rock girl, Hanna is great to know offstage. She has a permanent smile on her face. She is obviously close to her family, as two of her co-band members are her brothers, Chavi and Jv. The only non-relation in the band is bassist Richard Carandang.

How I wish the boys were present to partake of the food. Hannah does not eat red meat—she had a huge appetite, though, for Caesar salad, grilled tuna and wasabi, plus chicken.

Tender Bob's offers a relaxed pleasant environment for a hearty, hefty meal. Food ranges from the many versions of a burger to specially steaks, to a full menu of appetizers and salads. But point blank, go for the steaks.

Before Hannah leaves, I make one last request: Could she play my favorite Bob Marley number next time I watch Session Road?

What: Tender Bob's

Where: 184 Libis, Quezon City

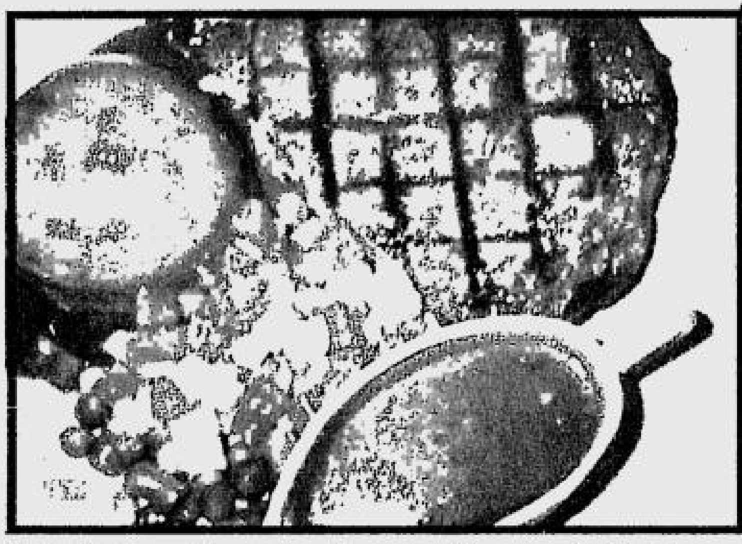
When: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 to10:30

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

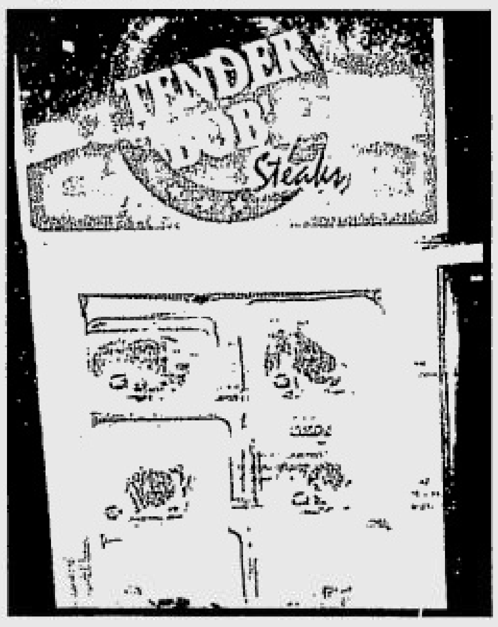
How much: P300 up (for steaks)

Contact: 912-3336

FOR Hannah, being able to eat ice cream is a cause for celebration.



YUMMY. The medium-rare, eight-ounce rib-eye steak at Tender Bob's.



TENDER Bob's wide selection of steaks will satisfy even the most voracious meat-eater.

Transmission

From page H1

derground, a club in Singapore. My friend Amanda and I tore it up like we owned the place so we got thirsty in no time. I soon made a beeline for the bar where I easily muscled my order, vodka. I was then surprised to hear the bartender muttering something from across the station.

"How do you want your drink?" he shouted.

"A shot?" I lived beside an Irish pub once and this kind of question was a first.

A quick thumbs up later, Mr. Bartender returns with a frickin' pitcher of cranberry vodka. Another one followed, since—bonus!—there was a buy one, take one special that night. Instead of inflicting blunt-force trauma on the guy, I let my good shoulder angel take over. Evidently, there was a slight communication breach. He heard me say "jug" instead of "shot."

See, the Singaporean accent is thick and choppy. To my ears, it's like Charlie Brown's parents. The flipside was, my twang was equally unfamiliar to the Singaporean. This explained the *faux pas*. Needless to say, I walked away from the bar a bit smarter and left the club a lot drunker. Booyah!

Unruly in the Holy Land

I stumbled upon a sorry-ass youth hostel in front of the Tower of David while tooling around Jerusalem one summer. Seeing that a suite at the Hilton was out of the picture, I decided to camp up on the rooftop, ground zero for grungy kibitzers and other Lonely Planet types. A couple of Yanks from San Francisco approached me since apart from them, I was the only one bobbing my head to Outkast's "Miss Jackson." In the name of sanity, I decided to hang out with them because they spoke English and like me, also wanted a sick time.

Since we probably would've gotten shot if we peed on the Wailing Wall, we pranked passers-by below by calling out garden variety names like "Ahmed," "Abdul" and "Mahmoud." Lots of people looked up at us, not so much since they were named such but because our empty beer bottles were kissing the pavement in rapid succession.

As expected, the manager barked at us for being such assmonkeys. However, he sucked the zing out of our souls when he said the hostel we were staying at was Palestinian! I went to bed really spooked as visions of snipers and suicide bombers did the "Macarena" in my head. When day broke, I busted out. The pursuit of fun shouldn't equal facetime with a missile, even if it had a Ph.D.!

Higher learning

My screw-ups have taught me that although the world speaks English when it needs to, there are certain things I should always remember when talking to people who may not be on the same skill level:

1. Act Japanese. They always get away with stuff.
2. There are no stupid questions, only stupid people.
3. When all else fails, get drunk!

Freaks in the City

Behold, my own gallery of the bizarre

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

SOME of the ugliest side shows I have seen in my entire life are the ongoing public acts around the city of Manila. Here's a vast, unlimited talent pool of freaks that I believe are even more disturbing to watch than any bearded lady, four-legged, alligator-skinned clowns or Leelee Sobieski. What makes these live acts utterly disturbing is the fact that some of these unnatural wonders are unaware of their disagreeable behavior.

Worse, these freaks do it in public for free, perhaps a subconscious manifestation of latent sadistic tendencies. Behold, my own gallery of the bizarre, the weird, the real-life freaks in the city:

The Incredible Pissing Man

This particular freak runs rampant in every street, alley and avenue bound by walls. It's easy to spot the ubiquitous side show male act. Their backs are always turned, the better to face walls that they sincerely believe were erected for them to use as urinals.

Never mind that this stinky act is performed in public areas, where normal humans who abhor the stench of piss pass by everyday. Never mind that this unhygienic predilection has become so uncontrollable that urban dwellers have had no other resort but to adapt, or evolve into semi-freaks themselves who spray-paint city walls with heart-breaking pleas: "Bawal Umihi Dito."

What's more bizarre and unthinkable for me is the fact that it's been made okay to pee in public as long as it's done within glo-bright, Barbie-pink metal enclosings courtesy of the MMDA. They might as well have put up signs that read, "Pwedeng Umihi Dito."

The Magnificent Rubber-Necking Motorists

The best way to take a gander at these freaks that could put Plastic Man to shame is to drive on Edsa or the South Superhighway. When the traffic becomes particularly bad—meaning my speedometer reads 5 km/hr hour instead of the usual 10—it means there are rubberneckers lurking somewhere ahead. After crawling painstakingly for a few hours, I finally see the "terrible" accident, nothing more than a little bump on the rear.

In short, the hellish bumper-to-bumper traffic has been caused by the rubbernecks (fondly known in these parts as *usiseros*) who have the maddening habit of craning their necks and lollygagging for minutes just to see what the heck has happened, before snapping their necks back to position. They seem unaware that this little time-consuming stunt causes employees to miss meetings, ambulance trucks to get to emergency rooms a minute too late and die-hard couch potatoes miss CSI.

The Astounding Eyeball-Rolling Mallrats

Walk through any shopping mall and observe with keen fascination brazen females who have the annoying habit of looking you over head-to-toe-to-head. This freakish behavior naturally strikes paranoia in the heart of normal human beings, prompting them to wonder if they forgot to zip their fly, or suddenly became high-waisted.

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(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

Hannah of Session Road @ Tender Bob's

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

This restaurant is home to all kinds of steaks and more

IT'S 3 p.m. and I'm late. The lunch interview was set for 1 p.m. There is a grace period for tardiness, even in "Filipino time."

To fast forward and skip excuses: the restaurant manager has taken care of making sure Hannah and her mom/manager has been fed. By the time I show up, she is already having her dessert of banana fritters ala mode w/ cinnamon, chocolate and vanilla sauce. Fortunately for me, everyone has partaken of it. Nothing like a sweet treat to break the ice. Try having dessert as first course for your next dinner gathering, for guaranteed smiles.

Hannah being able to eat ice cream is cause for celebration, as her voice should be in tip-top condition at all times. She gleefully savors each rich, luscious spoonful with the newly cooked deep-fried banana puffs.

Seeing and hearing Hannah perform is an experience like no other. The Baguio girl in full bloom has the voice of Sheryl Crow, the confidence of Alanis, the talent of the Corrs, the stage presence of Jewel and the sweetness of Natalie Imbruglia.

Hannah Romawac exudes the culture of alternative music and the culture of today's woman completely. It's easy to think she is the kind of girl that other girls would love to hate or envy, or aim to be. She also happens to be the kind that other girls are attracted to. But sorry, guys and girls, Hannah's heart belongs to fellow musician Mark Escueta, the drummer of River Maya. It's not fair that entertainers and celebs end up with one another. How about us regular folks?

My order comes, and I am to eat along. I have ordered a medium-rare, eight-ounce rib-eye steak and a six-ounce burger. I have been looking forward to this, as Tender Bob's is in the same league as Meat Plus, a steak delicatessen in Subic that I go out of my way to visit.

Here, one can choose from a selection of US Angus steaks, from the usual sirloin to t-bone, porterhouse, New York cut, tenderloin and, my pick, the rib-eye. One can also select the kind, cut, weight and "doneness" of the steak. They say some customers ask for a two-inch steak, or as much as 800 grams. I prefer my meat on the pink side, with horseradish hot mustard.

My burger is just the right size, not too big, but by no means too small. Nice, cooked to order and served hot—very important! They have all trimmings imaginable.

They have a three-cheese burger, too, with Swiss cheddar and mozzarella for the ultimate in cheesiness. Plus the bread has a touch of sweetness, just the way most Pinoys like it. They also say some customers ask for the excess fat from the steak to be fried on the side with garlic rice. Hmm.

According to Bambi Meer, general manager—the difference between US and Australian steaks is the feed. US cows are fed corn, as opposed to Australian cows that are fed barley (wheat/rice). There is so much history behind a steak!

Not living up to her reputation as a tough and aggressive hard-rock girl, Hanna is great to know offstage. She has a permanent smile on her face. She is obviously close to her family, as two of her co-band members are her brothers, Chavi and Jv. The only non-relation in the band is bassist Richard Carandang.

How I wish the boys were present to partake of the food. Hannah does not eat red meat—she had a huge appetite, though, for Caesar salad, grilled tuna and wasabi, plus chicken.

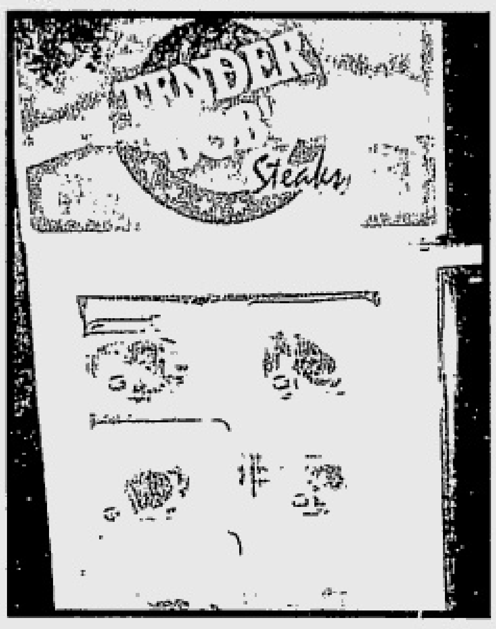
Tender Bob's offers a relaxed pleasant environment for a hearty, hefty meal. Food ranges from the many versions of a burger to specialty steaks, to a full menu of appetizers and salads. But point blank, go for the steaks.

Before Hannah leaves, I make one last request: Could she play my favorite Bob Marley number next time I watch Session Road?

What: Tender Bob's
Where: 184 Libis, Quezon City
When: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 to10:30
Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
How much: P300 up (for steaks)
Contact: 912-3336

FOR Hannah, being able to eat ice cream is a cause for celebration.

YUMMY. The medium-rare, eight-ounce rib-eye steak at Tender Bob's.



TENDER Bob's wide selection of steaks will satisfy even the most voracious meat-eater.

Transmission

From page H1

derground, a club in Singapore. My friend Amanda and I tore it up like we owned the place so we got thirsty in no time. I soon made a beeline for the bar where I easily muscled my order, vodka. I was then surprised to hear the bartender muttering something from across the station.

"How do you want your drink?" he shouted.

"A shot?" I lived beside an Irish pub once and this kind of question was a first.

A quick thumbs up later, Mr. Bartender returns with a frickin' pitcher of cranberry vodka. Another one followed, since—bonus!—there was a buy one, take one special that night. Instead of inflicting blunt-force trauma on the guy, I let my good shoulder angel take over. Evidently, there was a slight communication breach. He heard me say "jug" instead of "shot."

See, the Singaporean accent is thick and choppy. To my ears, it's like Charlie Brown's parents. The flipside was, my twang was equally unfamiliar to the Singaporean. This explained the *faux pas*. Needless to say, I walked away from the bar a bit smarter and left the club a lot drunker. Booyah!

Unruly in the Holy Land

I stumbled upon a sorry-ass youth hostel in front of the Tower of David while tooling around Jerusalem one summer. Seeing that a suite at the Hilton was out of the picture, I decided to camp up on the rooftop, ground zero for grungy kibitzers and other Lonely Planet types. A couple of Yanks from San Francisco approached me since apart from them, I was the only one bobbing my head to Outkast's "Miss Jackson." In the name of sanity, I decided to hang out with them because they spoke English and like me, also wanted a sick time.

Since we probably would've gotten shot if we peed on the Wailing Wall, we pranked passers-by below by calling out garden variety names like "Ahmed," "Abdul" and "Mahmoud." Lots of people looked up at us, not so much since they were named such but because our empty beer bottles were kissing the pavement in rapid succession.

As expected, the manager barked at us for being such assmonkeys. However, he sucked the zing out of our souls when he said the hostel we were staying at was Palestinian! I went to bed really spooked as visions of snipers and suicide bombers did the "Macarena" in my head. When day broke, I busted out. The pursuit of fun shouldn't equal facetime with a missile, even if it had a Ph.D.!

Higher learning

My screw-ups have taught me that although the world speaks English when it needs to, there are certain things I should always remember when talking to people who may not be on the same skill level:

1. Act Japanese. They always get away with stuff.
2. There are no stupid questions, only stupid people.
3. When all else fails, get drunk!

Freaks in the City

Behold, my own gallery of the bizarre

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

SOME of the ugliest side shows I have seen in my entire life are the ongoing public acts around the city of Manila. Here's a vast, unlimited talent pool of freaks that I believe are even more disturbing to watch than any bearded lady, four-legged, alligator-skinned clowns or Leelee Sobieski. What makes these live acts utterly disturbing is the fact that some of these unnatural wonders are unaware of their disagreeable behavior.

Worse, these freaks do it in public for free, perhaps a subconscious manifestation of latent sadistic tendencies. Behold, my own gallery of the bizarre, the weird, the real-life freaks in the city:

The Incredible Pissing Man

This particular freak runs rampant in every street, alley and avenue bound by walls. It's easy to spot the ubiquitous side show male act. Their backs are always turned, the better to face walls that they sincerely believe were erected for them to use as urinals.

Never mind that this stinky act is performed in public areas, where normal humans who abhor the stench of piss pass by everyday. Never mind that this unhygienic predilection has become so uncontrollable that urban dwellers have had no other resort but to adapt, or evolve into semi-freaks themselves who spray-paint city walls with heart-breaking pleas: "Bawal Umihi Dito."

What's more bizarre and unthinkable for me is the fact that it's been made okay to pee in public as long as it's done within glo-bright, Barbie-pink metal enclosings courtesy of the MMDA. They might as well have put up signs that read, "Pwedeng Umihi Dito."

The Magnificent Rubber-Necking Motorists

The best way to take a gander at these freaks that could put Plastic Man to shame is to drive on Edsa or the South Superhighway. When the traffic becomes particularly bad—meaning my speedometer reads 5 km/hr hour instead of the usual 10—it means there are rubberneckers lurking somewhere ahead. After crawling painstakingly for a few hours, I finally see the "terrible" accident, nothing more than a little bump on the rear.

In short, the hellish bumper-to-bumper traffic has been caused by the rubbernecks (fondly known in these parts as *usiseros*) who have the maddening habit of craning their necks and lollygagging for minutes just to see what the heck has happened, before snapping their necks back to position. They seem unaware that this little time-consuming stunt causes employees to miss meetings, ambulance trucks to get to emergency rooms a minute too late and die-hard couch potatoes miss CSI.

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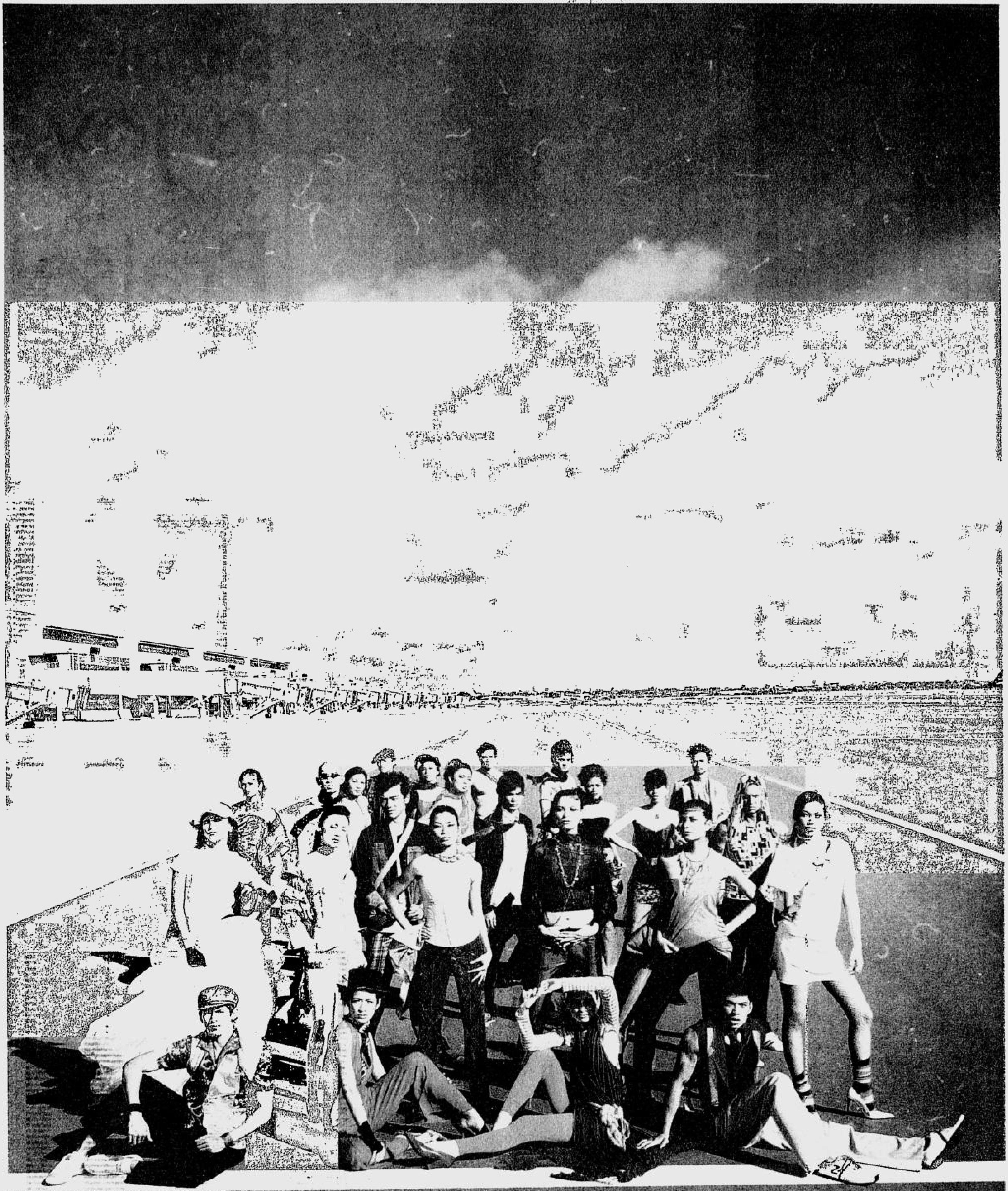


Models as pop culture icons

Photo by Steve Tirona. The PMAP models were shot on location at the NAIA 3 runway.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MR. VIC CHENG YONG OF PIATCO AND ARCHITECT JUN BENITO

Tim Yap

THEY'RE back—the supermodels. And I don't mean **Cindy-Christy-Naomi-Linda.**

Today's crop of mannequins are on their way to the iconic state that past generations exuded so much of—and this time, they're bolder, each one with their own string of endorsements, boasting billboards all over Edsa and elsewhere.

Val delos Santos and **Raya Mananquil** grace Folded and Hung billboards. **Nicolette Bell** has Tweeds. **Robby Mananquil** has Bench. **Rissa Samson** has Bench fix, among others. **Marilen Faustino** and **Girlie Benitez** have four commercials each airing simultaneously on local television, and more.

The fascination with the term "model" is back. This despite the industry's lack of funding for training and development, so much so that insiders don't think modelling can really be a full-time job.

PMAP now

Just the same, the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP, our local models' union) tries its best to raise the bar on modelling standards to override the perception that—to borrow a line from the film "Shallow Hal"—they're "just well-formed molecules.

So what makes this crop of models different? I ask the pillars of the ramp industry, model spotters and trainors: the fashion directors.

"Modelling in general requires freshness, and PMAP is now composed of young, individual minds slowly reshaping and redirecting its mission," says **Ariel Lozada**

"They're becoming iconic—they can now name their price," said an elated **Robbie Carmona** when asked about this current set. "They're also very focused. I just hope they don't lose the drive. I hope the next batch will continue what they have done."

Generation icons

The next batch will definitely have to wait as the current stars—majority of them in their early to mid 20s—yield so much power, they are sure to dominate the scene for quite some time.

"They're the best of their generation," says another model stalwart, **Jackie Aquino**, who has seen various waves of models come and go. "They are more competitive, more career-driven, because to them modelling is a full-time occupation. The batch of **Izza-Tweety-Apples-Suyen-Patty**—that's the standard that they are being set against. Hopefully they exceed it."

Each batch takes pride in having model figures, from **Tina Maristela** to **Joey Mead**. And each one brings to the fold a whole slew of "it" girls, beauty queens, show biz personalities—the stuff of pop culture.

Rissa Samson, PMAP prexy, grew up admiring our local models. "The foreign supermodels didn't inspire me. But all our seniors here—I look up to them so much and I hope our batch will do them proud."

Now the union has rate guides and provisions covering talent fees, to protect the model-members. Also rules on fittings, rehearsals and cancellations, plus prescriptions for regular training sessions with industry experts. It has been 16 long years since the organization was born. The hard-working founders, it turns out, had not dreamed in vain.

Set Cards

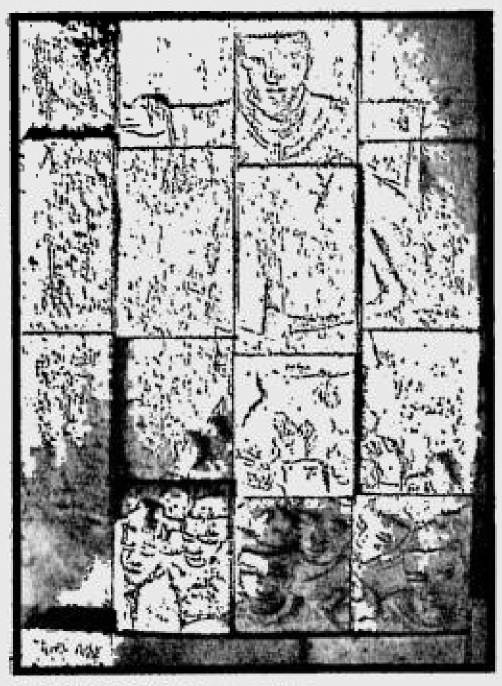
The PMAP is releasing uniform set cards for the members and portfolios for presentation. It is also improving its website, a project started by former president **Baba Parma**. Most important, the association acts as a solid support group for every member.

"We are like brothers and sisters. We turn to one another for professional advice, or even personal. I am most flattered when my fellow models confide in me and share innermost thoughts on their lives," says Rissa.

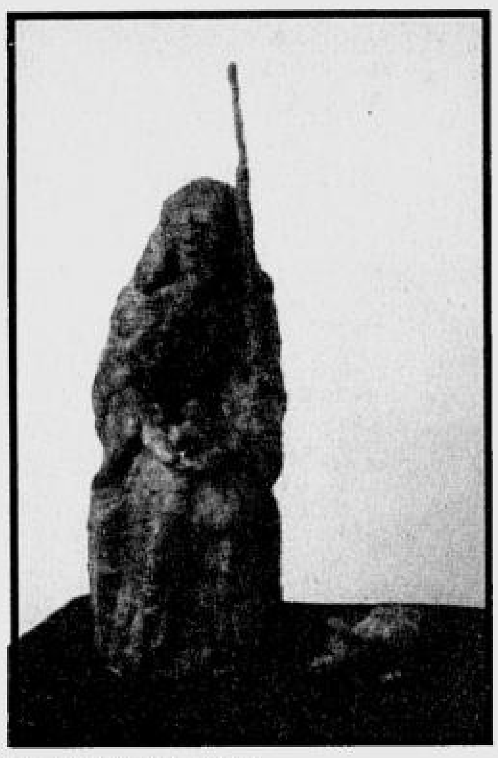
Regarding the usual crossover to other fields such as show biz, the president says: "We don't mind; we're very supportive. They still carry PMAP's name."

Best of all, she is looking at the future with optimism: "I wanna watch the next generation of models succeed."

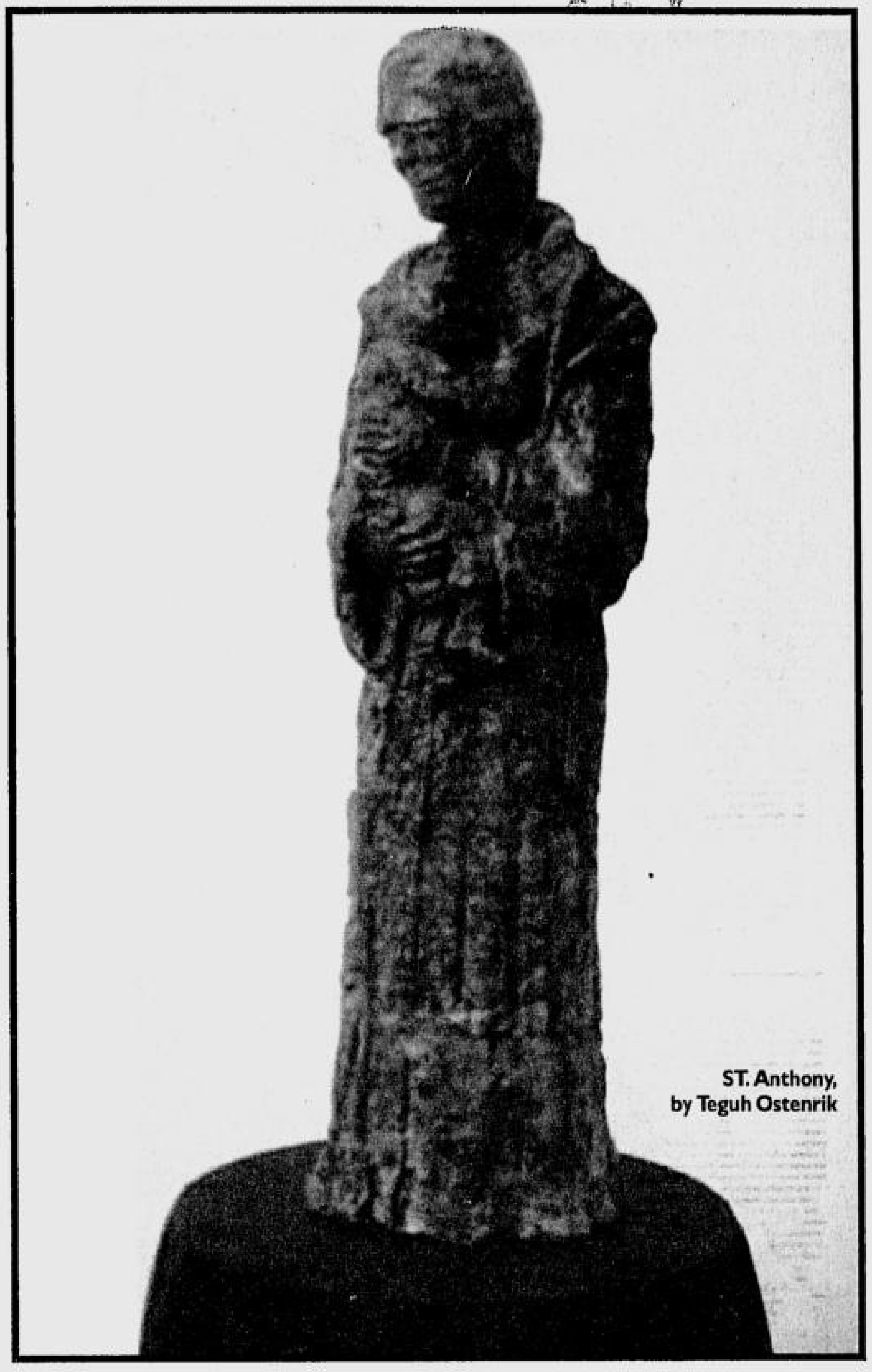
RISSA SAMSON IN JESUS LLOREN. RACHEL SORIANO IN VITTORIO. VALERIE DE LOS SANTOS IN VITTORIO. NICOLETTE BELL IN IGNACIO LOYOLA. EAZEL DON IN RHETT EALA. BIANCA VALERIO IN HER OWN CLOTHES. JAKI CRUZATE IN EDWIN UY. JOANNE PADILLA IN TINA DANIAC. JOANNE PEÑALOZA IN TINA DANIAC. MARILEN FAUSTINO IN JOEY SAMSON. PRINCESS GARCIA IN TINA DANIAC. RAYA MANANQUIL IN RANDY ORTIZ. GWYNETH ALBARRACIN IN WENCH. GIRLIE BENITEZ IN TINA DANIAC. MIKEE CARRION IN AVEL BACUDIO. REGGIE CURLEY IN MICH DULCE. ROBBY MANANQUIL IN VITTORIO. RYAN VILLAREAL IN VITTORIO. TOM ANDERSEN IN BANG PINEDA. TON LAO IN VITTORIO. TRACY ENRIQUEZ IN RANDY ORTIZ. LUKE JICKAIN IN MICH DULCE. JEFF MISOLAS IN MICH DULCE. DOS QUONG IN MICH DULCE.



ASCENCION in terra-cotta



COLLETA, by Ostenrik



ST. Anthony, by Teguh Ostenrik

INSPIRATION SANDWICH

Shout for Joy, Sing his Praise!

TEGUH Ostenrik, of Indonesia is a respected artist who has gained recognition throughout Asia and Europe. He has crossed the religious divide with his remarkable series of sculptures and terra-cotta panels, most popular of which is his Homo Sapiens and Topeng (or Mask) series. He is in town for his exhibit entitled "Praise," which runs till Sept. 14 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

The exhibit features a collection of bronze sculptures of eight Franciscan saints, the crucified Christ and Biblical scenes of the Passion and Resurrection in terra-cotta relief.

As an Indonesian artist with a broad world view, Teguh has been able to execute with sensitivity the Catholic imagery of Christ. With a historical knowledge of the Christian faith from early schooling in a Catholic institution in Indonesia, Teguh has managed to capture in his bronze sculptures, the Franciscan spirit of poverty, penance and humility.

It is a unique collection and Manila is the first exhibition destination for this body of work.

Define your art.

A lot of the time, I'm experimenting. It really depends on what situation I'm in. When I was in Paris, a stranger who did not speak French, I collected newspapers and magazines from the train and made a collage. I did the same in Tokyo and Kobe. I also do video art and installations.

How relevant is religious art today?

I don't believe in religion, I believe in God. Religion is a work of art by someone who is very creative. If you're very creative, you create your own dogma.

I put only 12 people in the Last Supper. I think what's important there is not the food, or the drinks; it's when Jesus told Judas that He knew what was going to happen. I am very happy that in Singapore, the friars made me re-interpret the New Testament.

So how do you live a life of poverty, penance and humility in a world like ours?

I'm living for the art, to work as artist is my desire, my duty.

What inspires you to "praise"?

I'm focusing on St. Francis of Assisi and his concept of life. I was impressed by his statement on how we should embrace death because death is part of our system—we don't need to be afraid of it.

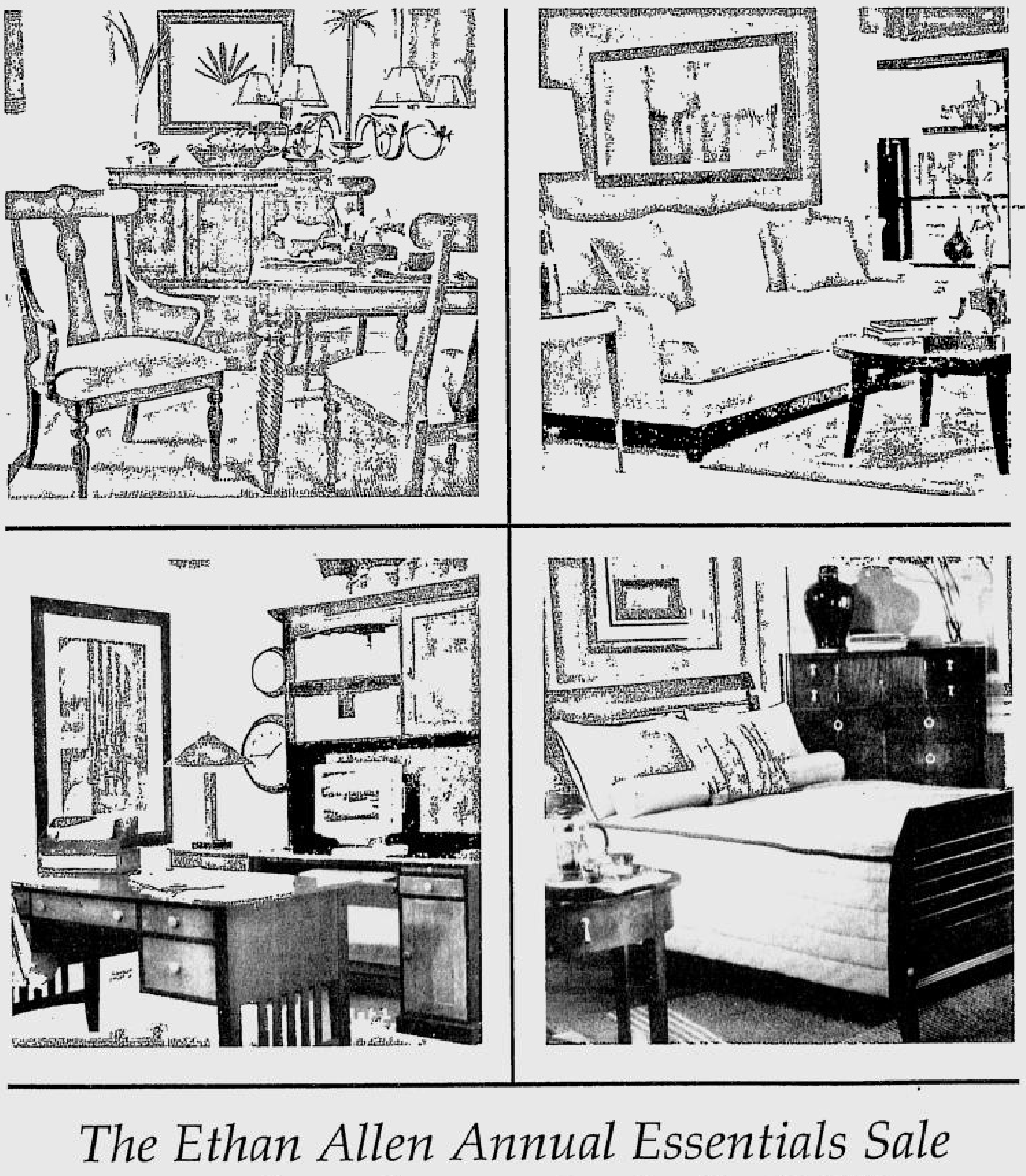
For you, what is the biggest mystery of being a human being living in this circus?

The creativity. The right brain. In this new civilization, it's hard to live with only the right brain. You have to be careful when crossing the street, when you see the traffic light.

Religion—complicates or simplifies?

Religion is important for the masses. But when I'm standing in front of my canvas, I feel like worshipping my Creator. It's ecstatic. It's my way of connecting myself with my Creator. For me that's religion. Being embraced by another power. It's what I feel when I'm working. More than anything, it's a cycle. It's about transporting your feelings.

Classic Styles. Timeless Rooms.



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